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OHIP CUTTING SERVICES SOME BIRTHING METHODS MAY HAVE TO GO {page 12}

LOADED

GUN-TOTING HEIGL MAY APPEAL TO TOUGH GUYS, TOO {page 28}

TORONTO metro®
Thursday, January 26, 2012
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News worth sharing.

Designer Zahia Dehar, the escort at the centre of the French soccer scandal, poses after showing her underwear collection on a runway in Paris, Wednesday.

THIBAULT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uncovering her potential

Dehar made headlines in 2010 when she alleged that top soccer stars paid thousands of dollars for sex with her when she was just 16. The allegations continue to haunt the players, but Dehar has made the best of a scandalous situation and turned her fortunes around.

Ontario's a big loser in national payments scheme: Report

Censored federal report suggests province is shortchanged by equalization program ◆ All political parties to blame: Expert

Ottawa is suppressing key parts of a politically-explosive federal report that reveals Ontario is being shortchanged by Canada's national wealth-sharing scheme, the Toronto Star has learned.

The 67-page study, titled "An Operational Expenditure Need Equalization Formula for Canada," is a searing assault on a $15.4 billion-a-year equalization system that redistributes taxpayers' dollars to ensure comparable levels of health, education and other programs across the country.

Quebec and Atlantic Canada get significantly more money from the federally-administered pot than they need, while Ontario and British Columbia lose out, concluded author Peter Gusen in his analysis of how much it costs to deliver services in different provinces.

"'Poor provinces are not generally needy. British Columbia has the highest expenditure need per capita and Quebec the lowest," wrote Gusen, then-director of federal-provincial relations at the finance department, in one of 27 sections of his report censored by Ottawa.

"Cost matters as much or more than work load. Ontario and B.C., typically regarded as 'rich,' are invariably the high-cost provinces. As a result, they are more often than not the most needy."

Yet Ottawa has never taken into account that wages and living expenses are higher here and in B.C. than most other provinces when dispensing payouts.

"If you were to include any sense of the cost of providing public services … in the equalization formula, Ontario would be getting a lot more in fiscal transfers," said Matthew Mendelsohn, director of the Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation at the University of Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What was deleted

Perhaps most significantly, the "overall expenditure need" diagram was deleted:

- This table showed that in an average year from the late 1990s to the early 2000s, Ontario needed $4.56 billion more and Quebec required $6.39 billion less to provide the same level of services.
- "This study really means that the entire system of regional subsidies is nonsense," said David MacKinnon, a former senior civil servant who has written two studies on equalization for the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.
- Eight tables that detail the health, education, social assistance, and other financial needs of all 10 provinces were also expurgated.

Eglinton LRT plan gets approval from all sides, but Ford still silent

TTC chair Karen Stintz's new transit proposal is all but a done deal, save for one big hurdle: an exit strategy for the mayor from his flawed subway pledge.

At city hall Wednesday, councillors from the left, right and centre — from the opposition to Rob Ford's own executive — were lining up behind Stintz's plan, which would move a chunk of the proposed underground Eglinton LRT back to the surface. This would free up as much as $2 billion in funding to extend the Sheppard subway line at least one stop and add rapid transit along Finch Avenue West.

"I'm very hopeful this goes through," said John Parker, one of the local councillors affected, a close ally of Ford, and a member of the transit commission. "What's troubled me from the start is the notion that we should take a technology designed to go on the surface and put it underground."

Both Premier Dalton McGuinty and Metrolinx chair Robert Prichard suggested Wednesday they would be open to the change, provided council approved.

The only holdout is Ford.

So far the mayor has publicly remained silent on the issue, but those close to him say there is an intense discussion going on behind closed doors about how to handle the dilemma.

"We all acknowledge the subway plan was a big mistake. It was unrealistic. And we're just trying to get (Ford) out of this without having egg all over his face," said one member of Ford's inner circle.

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Teens ride Lego space craft to spotlight

The two Toronto teens who sent a Lego man into near space were practically lifted into the stratosphere themselves on Wednesday by a rush of congratulations and media attention.

Mathew Ho and Asad Muhammad, both 17, launched a balloon 80,000 feet above the Earth with a Lego passenger and four cameras to document the trip. After the Toronto Star first published their story and stunning near-space footage on Wednesday morning, Ho and Muhammad were deluged with interview requests from media outlets in Canada and around the world.

"I've been bombarded all morning. I feel like I'm their manager now," said Lecourgos Papathanasakis, the principal of Agincourt C.I., where Ho and Muhammad are both in Grade 12. "They've definitely got star status."

Lego sent a note of congratulations. "We are always amazed by the creative ways in which Lego fans use our products, and humbled by how many unsuspecting places we appear..." said Michael McNally, brand relations director.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Mathew Ho, Left and Asad Muhammad, both 17, hold Lego Man attached to his capsule.

Barber killer caught on surveillance

Investigators try to piece together motive ◐ Was 'clearly targeted but we don't know why,' detective says

Chris Thompson was cutting a customer's hair when a man pulled a shotgun from a bag, walked into the Malvern barbershop and calmly killed the barber, police say.

"This was a very cool, cold-blooded crime," Det. Sgt. Dan Nielsen said Wednesday, calling the slaying senseless and brutal.

The popular 35-year-old barber was shot at 12:42 p.m. Tuesday inside Cut Creator, at the Malvern Town Centre on Tapscott Road.

Surveillance video shows a dark-skinned man whose head was partially covered approach the storefront with a knapsack or duffle bag. He dropped the bag outside the door, pulled out a shotgun, walked in and fired several shots at Thompson. He then calmly went back outside, placed the shotgun in his bag and ran in a northwest direction, perhaps to a waiting car.

No one else was injured, but police said the plaza was bustling with people at the time.

Three other employees were inside the eight-chair barbershop as well as one or two customers, who fled before officers arrived. Police are trying to track down anyone who witnessed the shooting.

Thompson, who had a 15-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter, "was defenceless. He had no means of escape," Nielsen said. "This was all over in less than two minutes." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lung. Transplant

▶ Ottawa's Helene Campbell, 20, who relocated to Toronto while awaiting a lung transplant, holds up her BlackBerry showing a tweet from Justin Bieber on Wednesday.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tweets turn woman into Belieber

Helene Campbell became a true Belieber when Bieber not only retweeted her plea about organ donation awareness, but sent her direct tweets of support. It's boosted registrations four-fold on Trillium Gift of Life's website and made a celebrity of the 20-year-old.

Toronto one of the best gay cities

American Airlines recently released the results of its poll on top cities of the world for gay life.

Tel Aviv, which has a very strong gay culture, came out on top by a large margin.

Here's the top of the list with vote percentages, along with other tidbits.

• Tel Aviv, Israel, 43 per cent. The gay capital of the Middle East is exotic and welcoming with a Mediterranean c'est la vie attitude.

• New York, N.Y., 14

From the Stonewall riots to marriage equality this year, the Big Apple has its own chapter in the queer history books.

• Toronto, 7

The historical gay merchant Alexander Wood would be proud of the queer home his city has become.

• Sao Paulo, Brazil, 6

Even during the off-season, the GLS scene (Brazilian slang for Gay, Lesbian and Sympathizers) is pumping.

San Francisco, surprisingly, got shut out of the top cities top eight voting. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

Cockpit cat causes flight delay

A cat escape caused a four-hour delay for an Air Canada flight Wednesday as airline staff in Halifax struggled to get the feline from its hiding place in cockpit wiring. Peter Spurway, vice-president of communications at the Halifax airport, said a cat named Ripples managed to escape its carry-on pet container during boarding and sprinted through the passenger area into the cockpit. Boarding of the aircraft was stopped and passengers left the plane as technicians took apart pieces of the aircraft to safely remove the cat. THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 news

An anti-bullying campaign by Thames Valley District School Board has won an award for its effort. Scan the code for the story.

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Another cellphone interrupts another classical performance, but this violist handles it like a pro. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Christopher Quigley on Wednesday

‘I’m just here to tell the truth’: Quigley

Ex-drug dealer denies cash motivates his claims at police corruption trial

A one-time marijuana dealer who claims Toronto drug squad officers savagely assaulted him and stole his money denies he is motivated by a $650,000 lawsuit.

Defence lawyer Harry Black suggested Wednesday that Christopher Quigley hopes if he “can just persuade this jury” one or more officers beat and robbed him, he’ll get a “huge amount” of money in a civil suit he has filed.

“Absolutely not, I’m just here to tell the truth, sir,” Quigley, 46, told a police corruption trial.

“I’ll bet when you put your head down on the pillow at night, you’re not counting sheep, you’re counting zeros,” charged Black, lawyer for former drug squad member Steve Correia.

“No,” Quigley replied.

Five former Central Field Command drug squad officers collectively face 29 charges. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Smuggled drugs found in pineapples

19kg Amount of cocaine seized in August at a New Brunswick port.

Six Ontario residents are facing drug-related charges after more than 100 kilograms of drugs were discovered in fruit shipments coming into Canada.

The investigation began in August after Canadian border officers seized a marine container at a New Brunswick port that contained cocaine hidden in hollowed out pineapples.

Investigators were able to link the freight to a Toronto address. Over four months, investigators identified the subjects linked to this activity and further drug trafficking.

Then in January 2012, officials at the Windsor-Detroit border intercepted two trucks, each containing 115 kg of marijuana. The drugs were concealed in packaging surrounding a shipment of watermelons.

The alleged smuggling scheme is nothing new for investigators.

“We’ve seen everything. Smuggling is really only limited by your imagination. We’ve seen it come in computers, ceremonial daggers, bins of various fruits, body packing. It’s unlimited,” said RCMP spokesperson Michele Paradis.

In these two related incidents, the accused are Denise Edwards, 46, and Linval Brown, 52, both of Pickering; Dexter Boyce, 43, of Toronto; Abdool Hakeek, 54, of Scarborough; Roman McInnis, 42, of Keswick; and Lancelot Henry, 45, of St. Catharines.

Police allege that these individuals are a group linked to both the watermelon and pineapple smuggling incidents. The RCMP says the group also has ties in Jamaica, Costa Rica, Guyana and the U.S.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

Ideas there for the taking

PUBLIC FORUM. Drive-free zones that make cities more pedestrian- and cycling-friendly.

Tax-free income for artists, to help nurture art and culture.

A national, universal, affordable, quality child-care program.

They’re tried and tested ideas that work in other countries and they’ll be part of the brain-storming at Steal This Idea, a public forum looking at innovative policies and programs that have been successful in other cities and could make Toronto the Good better.

Thursday’s sold-out event, organized by Diaspora Dialogues and Literary Review of Canada and held at the Toronto Reference Library, aims to create a buzz about what’s working in Toronto and what’s not, said Helen Walsh, president of the Dialogues and publisher of the Review.

Panelists will also offer thought-provoking solutions to issues involving social justice, sustainability and culture. Their suggestions will be published in the next issue of the Literary Review.

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A boogie night to conquer cancer

Disco-era icon Gloria Gaynor and Richard Simmons join forces for Princess Margaret's dance-a-thon

PHOEBE HO
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COURTESY OF STEPHEN BARSTEN

▶ Gloria Gaynor

Forget the bell-bottoms and Afro hair. All one needs for a blast back into the '70s is Richard Simmons' sassy dance moves and Gloria Gaynor's hit track I Will Survive.

One known for his infamous dancercises, and the other for her dance music, the two disco-era icons will be working together for the first time in Toronto on Feb. 12 to jazz up Princess Margaret Hospital's Dancing Days and Boogie Nights fundraising event for cancer research.

"It's all disco, so I got a hot outfit, I got hot disco music and I'm going to teach people how to do cardio and toning," said Simmons.

While cancer is on the forefront of the event, it's also about spreading the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle, he said.

"Those in their 20's and 30's, if I can get them motivated and inspired at that age, they may not get as many diseases or have medical problems like people that do not work out and eat healthy do," Simmons said.

At the age of 63, the fitness guru talks about his own personal struggle to stay in tip-top shape.

"I walk the walk and talk the talk, but don't think it's easy 'cause it's not," he said. "I still struggle. I have to tell you, I'm 135 pounds but I still struggle everyday with the temptations of food or not wanting to exercise and it never goes away."

▶ Gloria Gaynor, fourth from left, with Grace Jones to her right, performs on Monday with other stars during the Etam Spring/Summer 2012 Collection Launch at Les Beaux-Arts de Paris in Paris.

The challenge

- The anticipated 500 participants will be challenged to dance 10,000 steps while getting pampered with a beauty bar, shopping auction and Tassimo Latte Bar throughout their four-hour disco-a-thon with Richard Simmons and So You Think You Can Dance Canada choreographer Blake McGrath during the day in Woodbridge.
- The evening will feature a special performance by Gloria Gaynor, followed by dinner and a night of more dancing. For more information, visit discodays.ca.

Fighting cancer with disco

Between releasing a new single and her first contemporary Christian CD, disco queen Gloria Gaynor is taking time out to help fight cancer in Toronto.

Gaynor will perform in Princess Margaret Hospital's Dance to Conquer Cancer fundraiser on Feb. 12 in Woodbridge.

"I'm releasing in just a couple of weeks a disco single called All The Man That I Need, and I think it's a hit, so I'm looking forward to great things happening to it."

To Gaynor, cancer hits close to home.

"My mother died of cancer ... so I try to do whatever I can to help," said Gaynor.

"I don't think there's that many degrees of separation between anyone and someone who has suffered or is suffering from cancer and so we all need to pitch in ... to help people and get involved."

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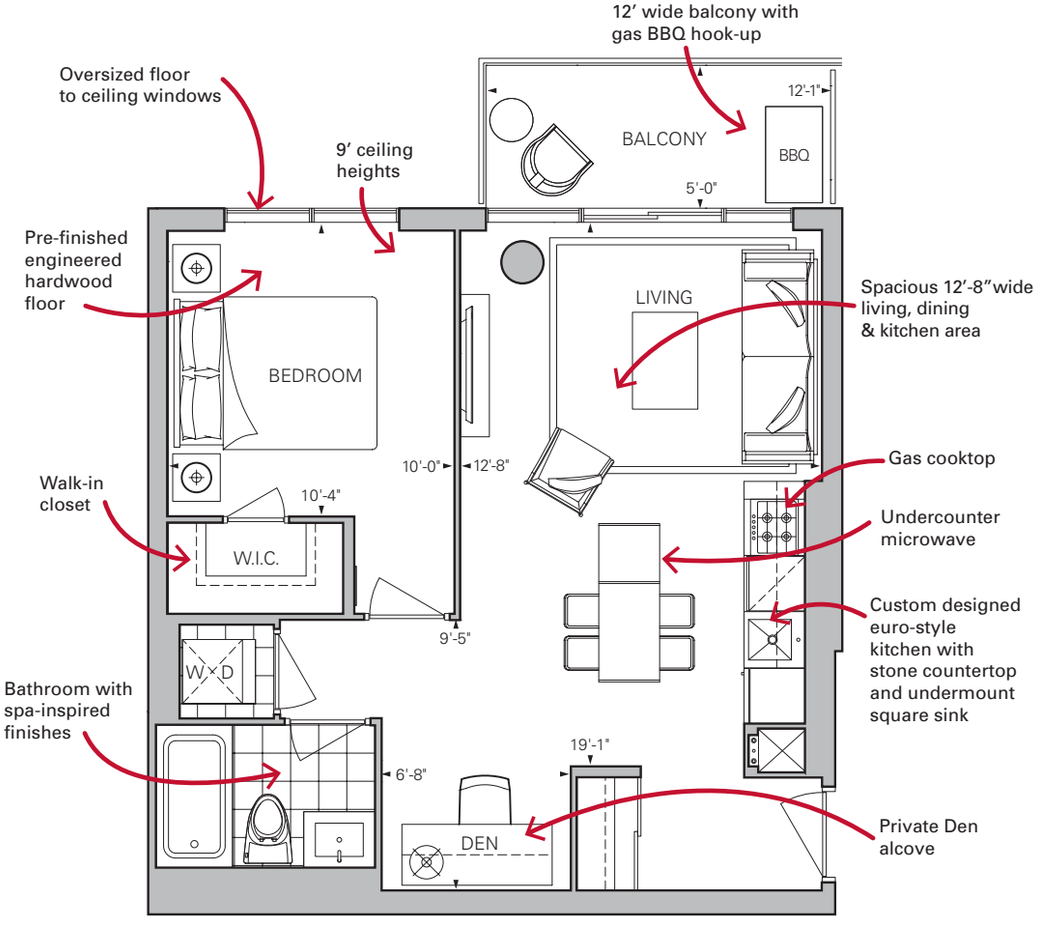

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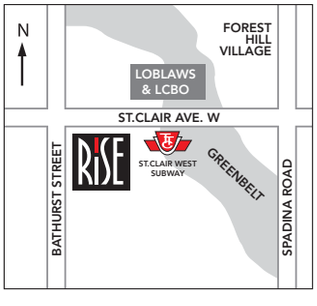

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Tuition rebates are waiting in the wings

- Centrepiece of Liberal campaign platform last fall
- Five out of six families with students can benefit

Millions of dollars are still up for grabs in Ontario's tuition rebate program as about 90,000 eligible students have yet to claim the credit for their college or university fees.

Colleges and Universities Minister Glen Murray said the government is approving about 30,000 students a week for the program.

"We're going to be putting a lot more resources into raising the profile of the program. Lots of students, we know, don't know about it," Murray said Wednesday.

That includes advertising through social media and having people on the ground so students can sign up on the spot.

The program applies to more than 300,000 students, but excludes mature and part-time students, as well as those who have been of high school for more than four years. Students working on professional degrees such as law and medicine are also excluded.

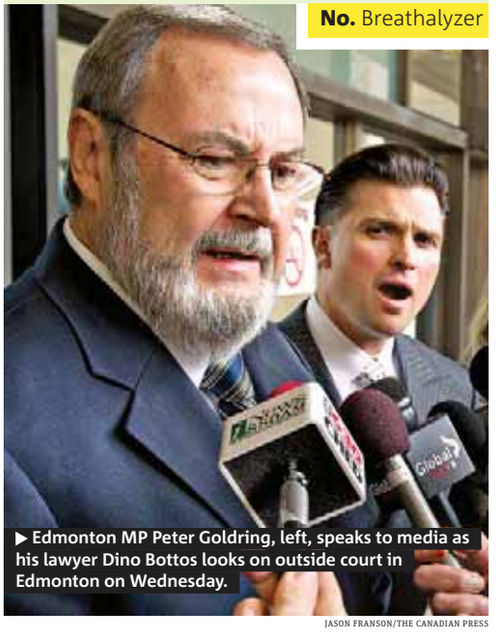
New Democrat Teresa Armstrong said the program isn't fair. "The face of students certainly has changed and it's mature students with families who are struggling, people who are going to school part-time to try to better their careers," Armstrong said.

The Canadian Federation of Students has also presented a 40,000-signature petition to the legislature asking that the $423-million annual cost of the program be used to pay for a 13 per cent reduction in tuition fees for everyone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eligibility

- **The program was deliberately designed** to help students with their first four years of university.
- **Cheques have been sent** to 160,000 students enrolled in the Ontario Student Assistance Program, who qualify for the 30 per cent rebates.
- **About 70,000 students** have since applied online.
- **Rebates include** $730 for each college student and $1,600 for each university student from families with incomes under $160,000 a year.



No. Breathalyzer

▶ Edmonton MP Peter Goldring, left, speaks to media as his lawyer Dino Bottos looks on outside court in Edmonton on Wednesday.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Only one beer in: MP

Goldring says he had one beer the night he was picked up by police for suspected drunk driving. He plans to plead not guilty to a charge of failing to blow on a breathalyzer.

Day of seal hunt should come to an end: NDP MP

A Newfoundland NDP MP has touched off a powder keg in the province by suggesting that the time has come for the controversial seal hunt to end.

MP Ryan Cleary told CBC's Fisheries Broadcast that international condemnation of the hunt and that it's only a one million dollar industry makes one wonder if it's worth it. "The day of the seal hunt may be nearing an end. Part of our history is also whaling ... and the day came when the whaling industry stopped."

The provincial Liberals have called on federal NDP members and provincial members from Labrador and Newfoundland to state their position on the hunt.

Frank Pinhorn of the Canadian Sealers Association told the Star that what Cleary has said "is an insult to everyone here on this island who depends upon the ocean for a living."

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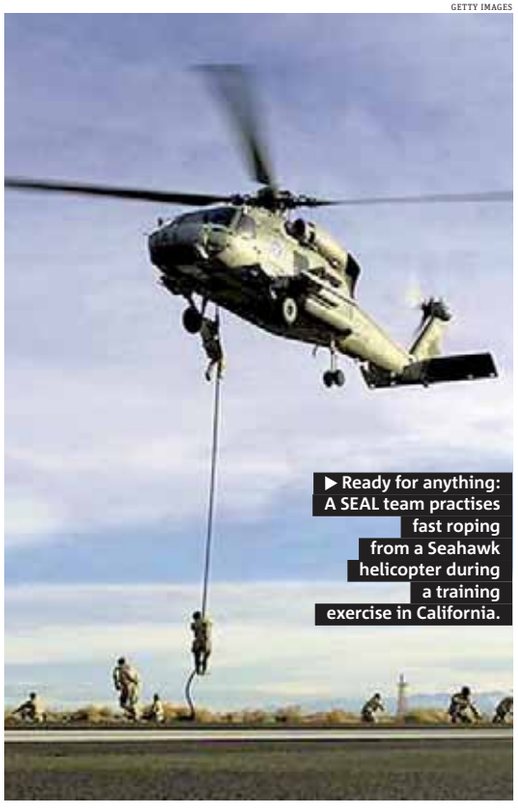

▶ Ready for anything: A SEAL team practises fast roping from a Seahawk helicopter during a training exercise in California.

SEAL-ed!

Same U.S. team that killed Osama Bin Laden rescues hostages in a daring raid into Somalia

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Freed: Thisted and Buchanan

They did it again!

The crack U.S. Navy SEAL team that killed Osama bin Laden parachuted into Somalia under the cover of darkness early Wednesday and scored another bold triumph.

They crept up to an outdoor camp where an American woman and Danish man were being held hostage.

Soon, nine kidnappers were dead — and both hostages were freed.

U.S. President Barack Obama authorized the mission by SEAL Team Six two days earlier. And minutes after he gave his State of the Union address to Congress, he was on the phone with the American's father to tell him his daughter was safe.

Held captive since last fall, American Jessica Buchanan, 32, and Poul Hagen Thisted, a 60-year-old Dane, were soon safely on their way home.

It was the second splashy SEAL Team Six success in less than a year, following last May's killing of bin Laden in Pakistan.

The Pentagon was tight-lipped about details Wednesday, citing a need to preserve the secrecy that can give SEALs an edge against terrorists, criminals and others they are ordered to kill or capture.

Special operations forces, trained for clandestine, small-team missions, have become a more prominent tool in the military's kit since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The Obama administration is expected to announce on Thursday it will invest even more heavily in them.

The raid happened near the town of Adado.

The U.S. raiders caught the kidnappers as they slept after having chewed the narcotic leaf qat for much of the evening, a pirate who gave his name as Bile Hussein told The Associated Press by phone.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said the captors were heavily armed and had "explosives nearby" when the rescuers arrived.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The United States will not tolerate the abduction of our people and will spare no effort to secure the safety of our citizens and to bring their captors to justice."

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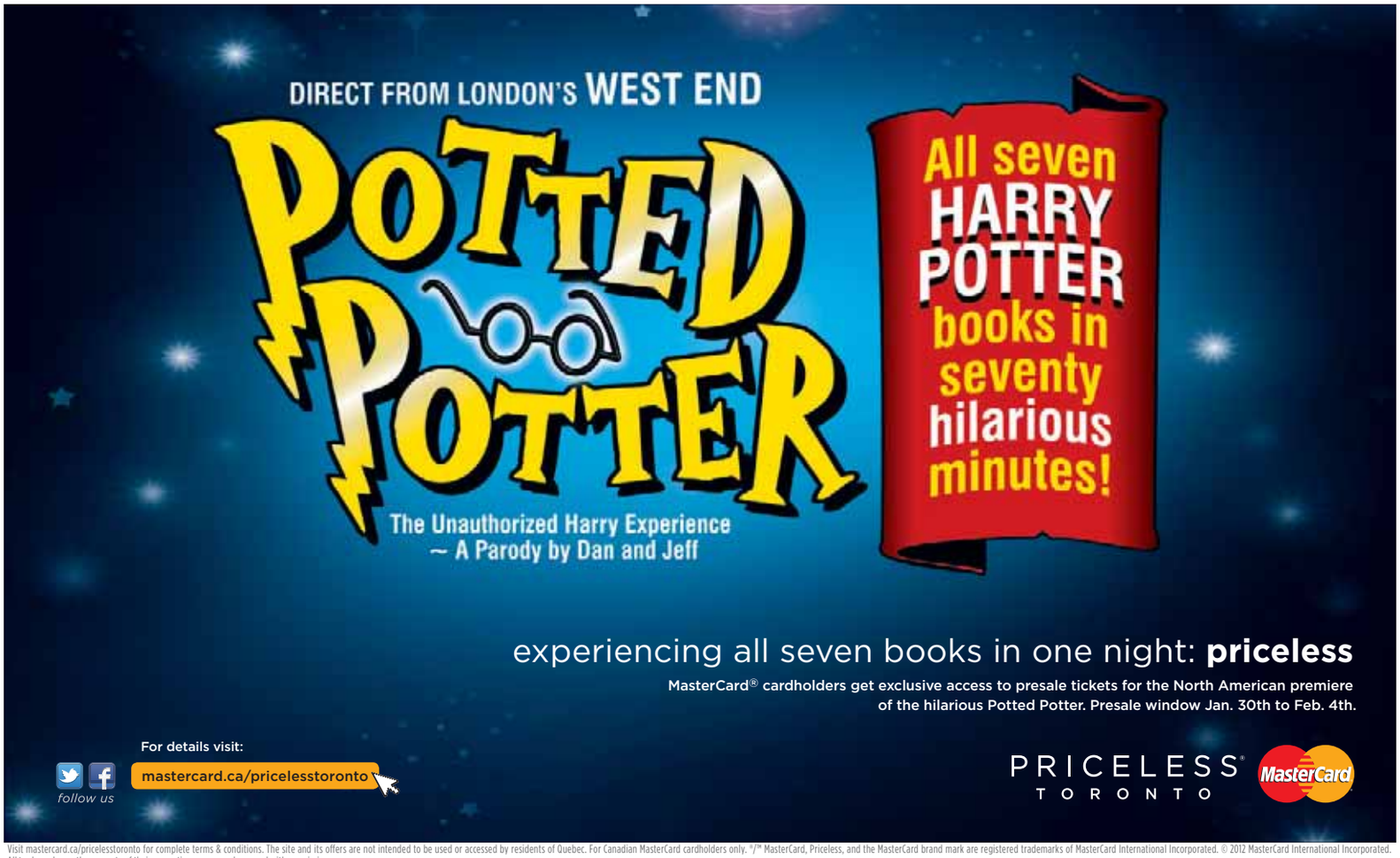
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OHIP cutting services

Planned C-sections could be a procedure taxpayers may have to pay for

Taxpayers will soon find they have to pay for more health services now covered by OHIP as Ontario sheds its $16-billion deficit, with possible limits on planned C-sections, Health Minister Deb Matthews says.

Matthews cited "pretty interesting research" that more caesarean sections are performed in certain urban areas of Ontario than others.

"What that tells me is that we've got work to do to make sure that everyone is practicing the highest-quality medicine," she said Wednesday when asked about C-sections.

Women who give birth by C-section spend more time in hospital, often a few days, adding to costs in the health system.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Health Minister Deb Matthews says if a procedure or test isn't supported with evidence, the government won't want to pay for it.

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Canadian jobs quality worsened in 2011: CIBC

More Canadians worked at lower-paying jobs, mainly in hotel, foodservice or personal care last year, a report by CIBC says.

More Canadians were also self-employed, where people generally earn 10 to 15 per cent less than regular employees, the report also said.

Meanwhile, higher-paying jobs in public administration, manufacturing, mining and computers became scarcer.

Although the economy created more jobs, mostly in the first half of the year, real disposable income was unchanged in the first three quarters, the worst showing in 15 years, the report also said.

Method

▶ CIBC took into account numerous factors when determining employment quality, including the distribution of jobs between full- and part-time positions, wages, and the number of paid employment versus self-employed positions.

The bank says despite the weakness its employment index remains "well above" recessionary levels.

Still, it says the index has slipped more than a full percentage point in the past year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Starbucks ponders beer and wine sales

▶ Colin Moore

The Canadian arm of Starbucks is closely watching the parent company's experiment adding wine and beer to the menu.

It would likely start in Quebec, where consumers are accustomed to the European idea of finding wine and beer in coffee houses, Colin Moore, president of Starbucks Canada, said. The company is also introducing a new lighter roast coffee — Blonde — aimed at customers who find its signature medium and dark roasts too bold for their taste. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Emails joked about man's 'hacker' past

- Dotcom made light of his history to neighbours
- His firm, Megaupload, accused of illegal downloading

POOL/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Kim Dotcom

Two years ago, Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom joked in emails with his new neighbours in New Zealand about his bad-boy reputation before telling them his criminal past was behind him.

"I am a former hacker" who was once convicted of insider trading, he wrote, before going on to say "In all seriousness: My wife, two kids and myself love New Zealand and 'We come in peace.'"

Dotcom's emails came to light Wednesday, the same day a New Zealand judge denied him bail after his arrest on U.S. accusations of copyright infringement.

An Auckland judge denied Dotcom bail pending a hearing Feb. 22 on his possible extradition to face trial in the United States, saying Dotcom poses a flight risk. Dotcom, 38, insists he is innocent.

New Zealand police arrested three other Megaupload employees last week on U.S. charges that they facilitated millions of illegal downloads of films, music and other content, costing copyright holders at least $500 million in lost revenue. A fifth suspect has been arrested in the Netherlands.

Dotcom first developed a reputation as a computer hacker in his native Germany, where he was born Kim Schmitz.

In 2002, he received a 20-month suspended sentence after being found guilty of manipulating stock prices to earn himself $1.1 million.

In New Zealand, Dotcom leased a $24-million mansion in Coatesville, near Auckland, where neighbours said he and his family threw lavish parties and Dotcom zoomed around in luxury cars.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Northern. Lights

▶ The aurora borealis puts on a show Tuesday near the city of Trondheim, Norway.

EMIL BRATT BORSTING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Solar storm lights up the heavens

Stargazers were out in force in northern Europe Tuesday night, hoping to be awed by a spectacular showing of the aurora borealis, or northern lights, after the most powerful solar storm in six years.

Planting map rezoned to reflect warming

The official U.S. map of North American planting zones is being updated for a warmer 21st century.

It's the first time since 1990 that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has updated the planting guide and much has changed. Entire states such as Ohio, Nebraska and Texas are now in warmer zones.

The new guide also uses better weather data and offers more interactive technology.

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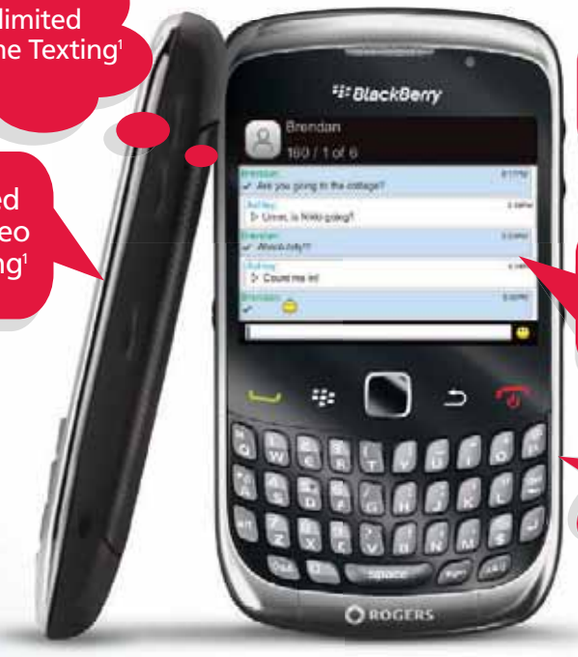

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Driver on rampage kills 9

Driver rams bus down crowded street in India Another 27 injured

A bus driver mowed down pedestrians and rammed cars, scooters and food stalls in a rampage through crowded Indian streets Wednesday that killed nine people and injured more than two dozen.

Police chased the bus for an hour through the streets of the central city of Pune, with traffic officers firing on it in an attempt to stop it, before they managed to arrest the 30-year-old driver. He is being held on murder charges.

The licensed bus driver had driven his route as normal Tuesday, but on Wednesday he jumped into another driver's bus and took off, police said.

"He just went berserk, slamming into people, cars, school buses, scooters and vegetable stands," Pune Police Commissioner Meeran Borwankar said.

Police have ruled out terrorism as a possible motive. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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▶ People look at damages after a bus was driven into vehicles and pedestrians in Pune, India, on Wednesday.

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Pakistani PM plays down memo scandal

Pakistan's prime minister toned down his criticism of the country's powerful generals Wednesday, a sign of lessening tension between the civilian government and the army that some predicted could topple the nation's leaders.

The two sides have long been in conflict, but tempers flared in recent months over a secret memo allegedly sent by the government to Washington last year asking for help in stopping a supposed army coup after the U.S. operation to kill al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden. The government has denied any connection to the letter.

3 The conflict raised fears of a military coup, something that has happened three times since Pakistan was founded in 1947.

The political crisis has come as the government is facing an array of challenges, including a struggling economy, rampant militant violence and troubled relations with its most important ally, the U.S.

Many analysts doubted a coup was imminent, but some speculated that the army was working with the Supreme Court to oust the government through constitutional means.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FREDERICK FLORIN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ British Prime Minister David Cameron is urging EU leaders to make sweeping changes to the European Court of Human Rights.

British PM in new battle with EU leaders

Taking a sharp new swipe at European meddling in the work of national governments, British Prime Minister David Cameron chided the continent's human rights judges Wednesday — insisting they must curb their role.

Cameron made the France-based European Court of Human Rights the latest target for his euroskeptic scorn, warning that judges had overstepped their powers by repeatedly overturning decisions made by domestic authorities.

Britain has frequently tussled with its European neighbours since Cameron took office in 2010 and insisted that national governments and courts must win back powers lost in recent decades to the continent's power bases.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘Timeline’ time, like it or not

Facebook switching all users to new profile format over next few weeks

Even if you’ve long forgotten your embarrassing status updates from 2006 — or rather not remember your switch from “in a relationship” to “it’s complicated” — those moments will soon be dredged up on Facebook.

Facebook will switch users to its new profile format Timeline, it announced in a blog post Tuesday.

Users could opt-in to the Timeline when Facebook began its rollout in December, but the rush to convert everyone comes after the social network announced 60 Timeline apps last week. The apps will make it easy to share interests from other sites, such as Pinterest or TripAdvisor. If widely adopted, it will also give users a reason to stay on Facebook rather than spend online time elsewhere.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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▶ Screen grab from Facebook engineer Paul McDonald’s Timeline.

Scotland presents referendum question

Scotland’s leader has presented his proposal for a ballot on independence — and his ideas include letting 16- and 17-year-olds cast ballots in a vote that could see the breakup of Britain within four years.

First Minister Alex Salmond announced the Scottish government’s preferred options for the vote on whether to sever ties from Britain, which it plans to hold in the fall of 2014. A “yes” vote would lead to independence taking effect with a May 2016 election for the Scottish Parliament.

Scotland and England united in 1707 to form Great Britain.

Scotland gained significant autonomy after voting in 1997 to set up the Edinburgh-based Scottish Parliament, but some Scots want to go further and make the nation of 5 million people an independent country within the European Union.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANDY BUCHANAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Alex Salmond vowed on Jan. 25 that the people of Scotland will be asked a straightforward question in a referendum on whether they agree that the country should be independent of the UK.

News in brief

BP worker files whistleblower lawsuit

GULF OIL SPILL. A former BP employee has filed a whistleblower lawsuit against the company, claiming he was fired for airing concerns about the cleanup after the 2010 Gulf oil spill — the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

In a federal suit filed last Friday in New Orleans, August Walter claims one of his BP bosses manipulated data on shoreline cleanup in Mississippi and didn’t give the U.S. Coast Guard “the true status” of what substances needed to be cleaned.

Walter, who helped develop BP’s cleanup plans in Mississippi after the 2010 spill, claims he was fired last month in retaliation for saying BP wasn’t following environmental regulations and was “picking and choosing what oil to pick up.”

Walter also says he refused to misrepresent data so that the Coast Guard would believe cleanup activities in Mississippi were closer to completion.

BP spokesman Tom Mueller said the company doesn’t believe Walter’s allegations have merit but will investigate “consistent with our personnel policies and code of conduct.”

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Colombia from 3.9 ¢/min	Mexico from 1.9 ¢/min	U.A.E 14.9 ¢/min
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Ethnic clashes widen in Chinese-ruled Tibet

Chinese government blames 'mob' for violent attack by its security forces

Deadly clashes between ethnic Tibetans and Chinese security forces have spread to a second area in southwestern China, the government and an overseas activist group said Wednesday.

The group Free Tibet said two Tibetans were killed and several more were wounded Tuesday when security forces opened fire on a crowd of protesters in Seda county in politically sensitive Ganzi prefecture in Sichuan province. It quoted local sources as saying the area was under a curfew.

According to the Chinese government, a "mob" of people charged a police station in Seda and injured 14 officers, forcing police to open fire on them.

The official Xinhua News Agency said police killed one rioter, injured another and arrested 13.

The spread of violence came after some 30 Tibetans sheltered in a monastery after being wounded when Chinese police fired into a crowd of protesters in neighbouring Luhuo county, a Tibetan monk said Tuesday. He said military forces had surrounded the building.

The monk would not give his name out of fear of government retaliation, and the Draggo monastery could no longer be reached by phone Wednesday.

The counties have been tense for some time, and at least 16 Buddhist monks, nuns and other Tibetans have set themselves on fire in protest in the past year. Most have chanted for Tibetan freedom and the return of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled to India amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

Many Tibetans resent Beijing's heavy-handed rule and the large-scale migration of China's ethnic Han majority to the Himalayan region. While China claims Tibet has been under its rule for centuries, many Tibetans say the region was functionally independent for most of that time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police reports

- Xinhua cited a police officer as saying the mob gathered Tuesday afternoon to storm the Chengguan Police Station and that they attacked police with gasoline bottles, knives and stones.
- "They also opened fire at us, injuring 14 police officers," the report quoted the officer as saying.
- Chinese authorities have similarly blamed Monday's unrest in Luhuo on a "mob" and said that overseas advocacy groups are twisting the truth about what happened to undermine the government.

January

26

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MARK RALSTON/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A Chinese policeman watches as Buddhist worshippers make wishes at the Tibetan Lama Temple in Beijing on Wednesday.

"Chinese forces are responding with lethal force to Tibetans' ever-growing calls for freedom."

FREE TIBET DIRECTOR STEPHANIE BRIGDEN

Woman acquitted of 'racial injury'

A court has acquitted a spokeswoman for a movement that fights racial inequality in France who was accused of insulting white French.

The trial centred on a word that Houria Bouteldja invented and used during a TV interview to refer to native white French, who are sometimes called "de souche," or "from stock."

But her neologism — "souchiens" — also sounds like French for "lower than dog" and drew a legal complaint from the far-right group, the General Alliance Against Racism and For the Respect of French and Christian Identity. The group said Wednesday that it would appeal.

Bouteldja has maintained she never meant to insult white French but wanted to highlight the way in which the expression "de souche" excludes French whose origins are in France's former colonies.

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More than 5,000 protesters have been killed, and so have some 400 children, according to the United Nations A four-month-old was reportedly tortured to death When will the world take action?

TWITTER

Syrian regime kills kids and the world seems helpless

ELISABETH BRAW
METRO WORLD NEWS

Syrian security forces raided Amad's home several days ago and delivered a horrendous message.

Stop participating in anti-government protests or we'll take your baby, they told Amad's wife.

The threat was real. There are increasing reports of kids being killed or tortured by the Syrian regime.

Since Syria's uprising began, more than 400 children have been killed, says the United Nations.

This month, four-month-old Afaf Al-Sarakbi was taken by security forces. She was returned to her uncle — dead, bearing signs of torture.

A seven-month-old baby was decapitated in front of his mother. And a two-year-old died after being shot in the eye by soldiers.

Anna Neistat, a Syria expert at Human Rights Watch, said, "Many children have been killed and many others have been put in detention. The number of children in jail is horrendous."

"How can anyone kill a child?" asked Amad, 31, who risked his life to speak with Metro. We have changed his name for his protection.

Squeezing Syria

- "We continue to see unacceptable levels of violence inside that country," U.S. President Barack Obama said on Jan. 17.
- King Abdullah of Jordan and the Arab League have called on Assad to step down.
- Several Arab states have proposed sending Arab League soldiers to Syria.

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Google to merge data

- Company could use information for targeted advertising
- Critics say sharing data across the sites violates privacy

ANTHONY JOHNSTON
@METRO.LU
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Google's announcement it will merge people's data across its websites into one profile has sparked a huge debate that the web giant could be breaching users' privacy.

Under plans to come in force on March 1, a person's search results across all Google products, including search, Gmail, Google+ and YouTube, will be collected into one single database, which the company could use for its targeted advertising.

For example, if you watched a YouTube video clip of Manchester United, ads for Man United soccer tickets could appear in your Gmail or Google+ account.

But critics see this new policy as very worrying, suggesting a person's confidential details on health and lifestyle could be saved in Google's bank of data and used across its websites.

Google claims that the new privacy policy will give the company a better idea of what users are interested to know when they search online.

Online. Rules

▶ EU commissioner Viviane Reding introduces plans to reform EU data protection laws on Wednesday in Brussels.

GEORGES GOBET/GETTY IMAGES

Keeping it personal

The European Commission has launched a controversial bid to compel online giants, such as Google and Facebook, to give users more control over their personal data or face fines.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

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AGREE TO DISAGREE WITH A HOCKEY HERO

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

As a Boston Bruins fan this might just be the Stanley Cup champagne talking, but it's possible I'm the only left-leaning person who's OK with goaltender Tim Thomas showing he also likes to play right wing.

In case you're exhibiting concussion-like symptoms and don't know what I'm talking about: The Boston Bruins were invited to the White House this week, but their MVP Thomas decided to stay away and have a Tea Party instead.

In a statement that showed he likes capitalization more than the Capitol, he said that the U.S. government had "grown out of control" and that he had made his decision "as an INDIVIDUAL."

"It's an interesting thing to discover that one of your heroes is your political opposite. It's a bit like discovering that Stephen Hawking has a Confederate flag in his bedroom or Rowlf the Dog is a Scientologist."

The media's reaction? Well, you think the Gadhafis were harshly criticized …

To be fair, Thomas' statement was vague, which left it open to interpretation. A reader might guess that he doesn't recognize the divine provenance of the Los Angeles Kings, believes it's his right to defend his crease with a gun, and thinks that Mario Lemieux is the best Freedom-Canadian player ever.

Here's what some media members actually said: He should turn in his U.S. medal from the Olympics. He hates the troops. And he may be a racist. All this while most were mocking his views as extreme.

The only people who seemed to support him were right-wingers who were happy to pile onto Obama.

It's an interesting thing to discover that one of your heroes is your political opposite. It's a bit like discovering that Stephen Hawking has a Confederate flag in his bedroom or Rowlf the Dog is a Scientologist. You admire them for reasons totally beyond what their politics are, and you're not sure how to process it when given the new information.

Fortunately for me, I'm a militant free-speech guy (and God knows I've got enough friends who are part of the flu-shots-kill-but-bin-Laden's-alive extreme left.)

I've got a good head start with cognitive dissonance, because I have two other heroes whom I disagree with on just about everything but who are good at what they do and live their lives with integrity. I call them "Mom" and "Dad."

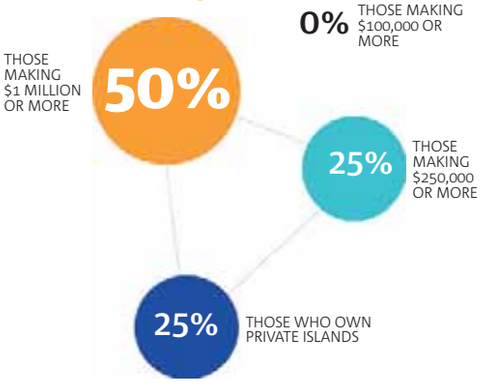
So I don't care that Thomas took his stance and I would argue over a beer, rather than commiserate. In the sports realm, he's a thoughtful, polite and intelligent interview, and on the ice he's already proven he's one of the best players in the world.

Thomas has done his bit for king and country. So to speak.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Who is the one per cent?



Local tweets

- **@JessLPage:** I don't know why I find these #Ripples tweets so funny, but I do
- **@adsouza93:** Look what the #Leafs have done with Lupul, Lombardi & Connolly. Liles will come back with something to prove as well! #rehabcentre
- **@mistershore:** Finally!!!! We put a lego man into space, holding a Canadian flag. I was wondering when that would happen.
- **@BinsonS:** We need more of those 17 year olds who sent a Lego man into space.
- **@NPatel6:** Bargnani is 6th in the NBA in scoring, finally playing like an All Star. Needs Derozan to step his game up
- **@griffinthomson:** The NHL All Star Game is a wonderful chance for us hardworking fantasy GMs to relax and spend some quality time with friends and family

GETTY IMAGES

On high alert in Tahrir

One year since the revolution

CAIRO, EGYPT. Thousands of Egyptians flocked back to Tahrir Square to mark the first anniversary of the start of the revolution that ousted authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak. But the mood in the square was far from just celebratory amid fear that violence could erupt between protesters and the military. MWN

Military still calling the shots

TENSIONS. Why has there been more frustration than celebration? Tensions have been simmering between pro-democracy activists and the military. December saw nine dead and hundreds injured after a crackdown on antimilitary protesters. The military council has pledged to transfer power to a civilian government by July 1. MWN

Egypt today

- **Islamists coming to fore:** Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party wins last week's lower-house election.
- **Ailing Mubarak in the dock:** Ex-leader's trial on corruption and ordering deaths of protesters continues.

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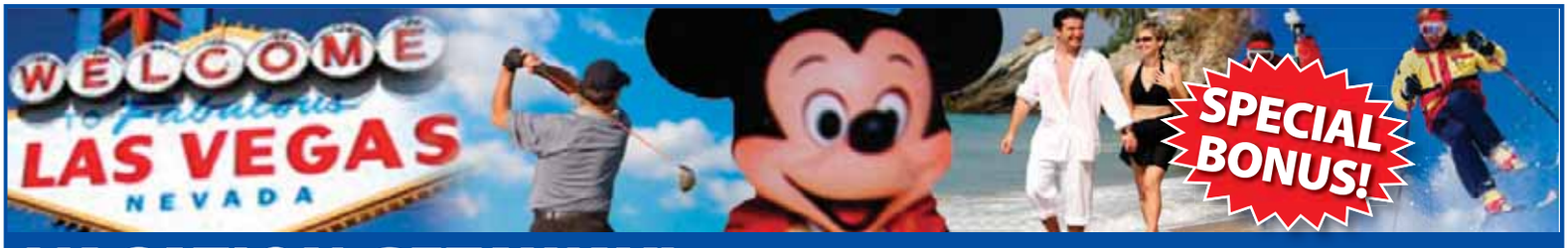

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A return to super shooting

The 8 Fest puts a spotlight on Super 8 films ◗ The hard to find film is movie buffs dream

BACKSTAGE PASS

IAN GORMELY
METRO TORONTO

In a world of HD video, 1080p resolution televisions and 3-D movies, film stock and splicers seem as anachronistic as a telephone switchboard. Yet they remain the tools of the trade for the small group of filmmakers showing off their wares at this weekend's the 8 Fest, a film festival dedicated to Super 8, 8mm and 9.5mm film.

"Super 8 cries out for its own festival," says Andrew James Paterson, the fest's coordinator. "There's always been a wide coterie of people working with this supposedly outmoded equipment."

Super 8 film literally refers to the width of the film stock as opposed to more standard 16 or 35 mm width film. It's housed in a plastic case that slots into a handheld camera. The medium came to prominence in the 1960s and is famous for it's over saturated colours and grainy look.

Now in its fifth year, the 8 Fest prides itself on being the only festival in North America where the films are shown on the gauge in which in which they were shot — many festivals transfer films to DVD or other digital mediums. Key to its success has been its forward outlook — organizers commission artists from both Toronto and around the world to create new works that fit into its daily programs.

"We like to get artists involved," he says, even if Super 8 isn't their usual medium. "Unless they're really busy, they say yes."

A quick look at the photography section of the Android or Apple app stores reveals a wide variety of digital filters users can download to replicate these features. But to the "visual composers" at the 8 Fest, apps like Hipstamatic and Instagram are lacking.

"They want the grain," he says. "They want the hands on of Super 8."

The 8 Fest runs Jan 27-29 at the The Trash Palace (89-B Niagara Street.) It is $5 per event or $25 for a festival pass.

Hard to find

Anyone looking to dive into the world of 8mm and Super 8 filmmaking might find tracking down an actual camera difficult

Find it The film stock itself is still being made and is easier to find including several locations in the city. Similarly, the Niagara Film Lab still develops 8mm film.

ULLA A.WYRWOLLOOS

▶ Milena Gierke's film Depuis que je me souviens / Since I can remember is screening at the fest. She is holding a super 8 camera.

2 scene

Garth Brooks

An Oklahoma hospital in Garth Brooks' hometown must pay $1 million to the country singer because it failed to build a women's health centre in honour of his late mother, jurors ruled Tuesday evening.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Graceland' revisited: Sundance doc traces success, fallout of Paul Simon's smash album

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Katherine's 'Plum' role

Heigl gets tough playing bounty hunter Stephanie Plum in One for the Money

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

DONNA WARD/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Katherine Heigl says One for the Money will appeal to men and women. "It's not all just about romance, it's not all just about comedy," she says.

Playing Stephanie Plum — a lingerie saleswoman turned bounty hunter — in One for the Money has taught Katherine Heigl one thing: She likes to shoot stuff.

"I really enjoyed it because it was super-satisfying and cathartic on some level," she says of the gunplay she did for the film. "It was fun, I had a good time. I started wanting to go to the gun range regularly. And then I started shooting clay pigeons with [husband] Josh [Kelly]. I really like to shoot things. Who knew?"

Not that firearms are necessarily new to her, but the work on this film added a new level of reality to it for the former Grey's Anatomy star.

"I mean, I've been wielding guns in films since I was 15 but they're fake and there's no actual bullet in them — we hope," she says.

"So they took us to a shooting range to practice, because there are certain things you're not supposed to do — like blink when you shoot, but it's impossible not to blink, it's really hard — and it was really intimidating and nerve-wracking the first time they put a loaded gun in your hand. Plus they've just given you a 20-minute spiel about all the dangers of this gun, so you're sort of freaking out."

But clearly she got over that.

All that shooting is aimed at attracting a more diverse audience than your usual romantic comedy fare — especially since the movie is based on one of 17 books in the Stephanie Plum series by author Janet Evanovich.

Clearly there are hopes for a franchise.

"I think what's sort of interesting about the books is they all have a murder-mystery tie-in, with the bounty hunting aspect of it. So it's not all just about romance, it's not all just about comedy," Heigl says.

"The murder-mystery storyline is kind of dark and a little edgy and gives it a vibe that is not purely chick-flick-ish.

"I'm really excited about it because it does appeal to everyone, it isn't just a girl's movie. I think that we're working hard to advertise it so that everyone knows that it's a good time for everyone — men and women included. Tough men. Tough men will love this movie," she adds with a laugh.

Guns and tough guys aside, in the end, the one detail that Heigl and her co-producers agonized over the most was her hair.

"She's brunette. Her look is very specific in the book, and once you get attached to that idea in your head I couldn't imagine Stephanie any other way," Heigl says.

"It was disconcerting, I think, for certain fans to see me as a brunette, and then it was disconcerting for fans of the books to imagine me as Stephanie because I'm blonde and blah blah blah.

"So I dyed it brown before we started filming, trying to get people on board.

"And then I ended up just wearing a wig because I don't have curly hair and Stephanie does.

"And then I went back to blonde while promoting the movie, so I didn't really think it through, but hopefully people will buy it."

Debbie Reynolds puts things in perspective

In One for the Money, Katherine Heigl got the chance to work with screen and stage legend Debbie Reynolds, who pops up as her sass-talking grandmother.

It wasn't just an opportunity to work with someone she admires, but Heigl says it also gave a chance to put her long work hours into perspective.

"I was sort of complaining one day about the hours — as I'm known to do — and Gary, our producer, said, 'Oh, you ought to hear Debbie's stories about her hours on Singing in the Rain,'" Heigl remembers.

"It was so horrifying what that woman went through to make that movie. I think she said they were working something like 20 hours a day, and she would just get a few hours of sleep on the sofa in her dressing room and then go back to work a few hours later. I thought she was exaggerating and it was sort of one of those 'When I was your age I walked to school in bare feet in 10 feet of snow.' This can't be true. And then she told me how she had to dance with bleeding feet at one point, and Gene Kelly was like, 'I guess we should stop, Debbie's feet are bleeding all over the scene.' And she was like, 'No no! I'm fine, I can wrap them up! I can keep going.' So then I stopped complaining about my hours."

NED EHRBAR

DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Bossa Nova piano maestro Sergio Mendes.

Real in Rio could see a repeat

Mendes, who earned an Oscar nod for song, says look for a sequel

Sergio Mendes, who scored an Oscar nomination for his song Real In Rio, says the animated film will most likely have a sequel.

Mendes said Rio director Carlos Saldanha may want to tie the sequel to the 2014 World Cup, which will take place in Brazil.

"I think the plan is for the movie to come three or four months before the World Cup," Mendes said Tuesday afternoon.

"Fox has been talking about (it) and it looks like it's going to happen," he continued. "We're going to have a meeting I think next week and Carlos is coming to town to tell us the story, and it looks like it's a go."

Fox didn't immediately respond to an email request seeking comment on the possibility of a sequel.

Mendes and Saldanha are from Brazil. Mendes said creating music for the film — about birds adventuring to Rio de Janeiro with the voices of Jesse Eisenberg and Anne Hathaway — was special "because that's my hometown."

Rio tells the story of Blu (Eisenberg), a male blue macaw who is taken to Rio de Janeiro to mate with a female.

He eventually falls in love with Jewel (Hathaway), a free-spirited macaw, and together they have to escape from being smuggled by Nigel, a cockatoo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quote

Mendes shares his nomination with Siedah Garrett and Carlinhos Brown. He said he's not feeling pressure to create new music for the Rio sequel following his Oscar nod.

Quote "I take one thing at a time. Right now I'm celebrating."

No need to talk about it

Swinton not fazed by Oscar snub Won 2008 best supporting actress

Tilda Swinton wasn't nominated for an Academy Award for her role in We Need to Talk About Kevin, but she wasn't sad after hearing the news.

"I wasn't disappointed. I didn't know for hours, but someone was telling me apparently everyone else was disappointed. I had very low expectations, so perhaps my expectations were a bit lower than everybody else," the 51-year-old actress said Tuesday at an event celebrating Here, a short film starring supermodel Agyness Deyn that Swinton conceived for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc.'s Luxury Collection brand.

"I am a good gambler, so I knew we were not really going to be in there," she said.

Swinton took home an Oscar in 2008 for best supporting actress for Michael Clayton.

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Horsin' around

It takes a herd to make a Hollywood movie like War Horse The film's trainer talks equine stars

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trainer Bobby Lovgren works with his horse Finder, one of 14 equines who play the scene-stealing Joey in War Horse.

One star of Steven Spielberg's latest epic likes to end his work day by rolling around in the dirt, kicking his legs in the air and flaring his nostrils.

Finder, a 12-year-old thoroughbred, is among more than 150 equine performers featured in the Oscar-nominated War Horse, and one of 14 who play the scene-stealing Joey. He lives on a ranch about 70 kilometres northeast of Hollywood with veteran horse trainer Bobby Lovgren, who oversaw all the equine action on War Horse.

"Plowing, riding, chasing — you name it, it's in there," said Lovgren, who calls War Horse "the biggest horse movie ever made." Lovgren is the protégé of legendary Hollywood horseman Glenn Randall, who trained Roy Rogers' Trigger.

Thanks to the enduring appeal of horses on screen, Lovgren, Finder and War Horse continue a longtime tradition of Hollywood horses that began with the earliest motion pictures.

"Bobby and his team literally performed miracles with the horses on this film," Spielberg said. "I wanted it to feel like the horses were performing their parts as much as (actors) Emily Watson or Peter Mullan, and that is what happened. There were times during production when the horses reacted in ways I had never imagined a horse could react. You just sit back and thank your lucky stars that these horses are so cognizant that they are able to give everything to a moment."

Those moments took months of training and a 22-member team of trainers, handlers and yes, equine makeup artists.

Set in England during the First World War, War Horse centres on the enduring relationship between Joey and the farm boy who trained him.

When Joey is sold to soldiers heading into battle, the horse begins a journey that brings him through various fighting factions and into the lives of soldiers and civilians who are moved by his strength and spirit.

The film has been nominated for six Academy Awards, including cinematography and best picture.

As the film's "horse master," Lovgren oversaw everything horse-related. His team prepared the equine actors for their various duties.

"We all became incredibly attached to the horses," said cast member Patrick Kennedy.

"Getting to know these horses and learning to ride them was the greatest privilege I've ever had."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bobby Lovgren

- The 46-year-old horseman grew up in an equestrian family in South Africa that runs a large jumping and dressage barn. Lovgren said he didn't much enjoy the public dealings that work required, so he headed to Hollywood to learn a new type of horse training. He has trained horses for movies such as Seabiscuit, Zorro and Cowboys & Aliens.

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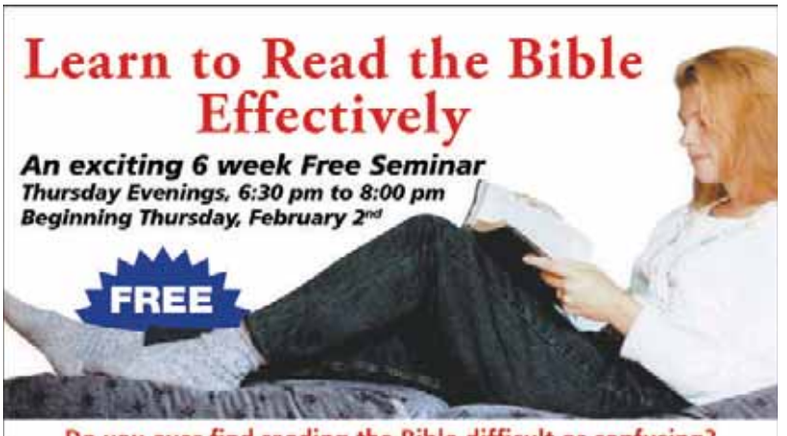
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Exposing the heavy side of food industry

New Food Network show sheds light on obesity, diabetes among chefs and other kitchen pros

Paula Deen's diabetes revelation pretty much sums it up: Kitchen pros at all levels struggle with obesity and its dangerous aftertaste in the high-pressure, high-calorie world of food.

The queen of Southern comfort cooking, now a spokeswoman for a diabetes drugmaker's health initiative, announced last week that she hid her Type 2 diabetes for about three years while continuing to cook up deep-fried cheesecake and bacon-and-egg burgers between doughnuts on TV.

Choosing to digest her ill health privately all those years, Deen's story is familiar to those in chef's jackets who already had gone public with the question few in their world love to talk about: How do you stay healthy while trying to earn a living making food?

23M

Escalation of Type 2 disease in the U.S. has been closely tied to obesity. Roughly 23 million Americans are believed to have the most common Type 2 diabetes; patients' bodies either do not produce enough insulin or do not use it efficiently, allowing excess sugar, or glucose, to accumulate in the blood.

On Thursday, a dozen obese chefs, restaurant owners, caterers and others will search for the answer. That's when the Food Network premieres Fat Chef, which follows participants for 16 weeks as they struggle to lose weight and learn a healthier way of life with the help of trainers, nutritionists and therapists.

"You have this abundance of food all around you," said pastry chef Michael Mignano, who's one of the dozen. "You're doing parties, you have weddings. There's always a lot of food left over. You're constantly tasting, working late hours, eating late."

Mignano, 36, owns a bakery in Port Washington, N.Y. At 6-foot-2, he weighed about 500 pounds soon after he was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in 2010, before Fat Chef went into production last October. His resolve to do something about his weight grew stronger as the result of a different Food Network show on which he appeared in September, Sweet Genius.

FOOD NETWORK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Caterer Ally Vitella, right, does modified sit ups with the assistance of health consultant Christine Avanti, during a workout as seen on the Food Network's Fat Chef. Vitella dropped from a size 28 to a size 16 during the show.

"I wasn't nervous about that show, but I was nervous about whether the jacket would fit me," said Mignano, who now weighs about 400 pounds and has a long road ahead to reach his goal weight of 250.

"Watching myself on that show, I was the fat guy. That's all I saw. I felt almost like a drunk seeing himself on the floor passed out."

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Dealing in depravity

- Spartacus returns with more blood, sex and action
- But all that taboo stuff is just part of the time period

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Spartacus fans are gearing up for the show's return to television and with it, all the controversial blood, sex and action that has made the series so provocatively popular.

"For some reason these things are still really taboo in our society," said returning star Lucy Lawless (also known for her former hit series Xena: Warrior Princess).

"(It gives) a curiosity factor to us which I don't mind. I remember (the hosts of NBC's The Today Show) go 'ooh, that's sounds despicable' and I say 'yes, it is despicable, you've got to watch it!'"

Producers have insisted that depravity isn't just the cornerstone of the show's success. It's also indicative of the immorality of the Roman period in which Spartacus: Vengeance is set and that historical detail intrigues viewers.

"We try and keep things really real because we're doing outrageous stuff," said Lawless. "If you make it art, we've lost it, you lose the tension and it just becomes a spoof. So I think what (fans) love is they can relate to these people going through experiences that none of us ever want to suffer — like in the gladiator ring — and you can live vicariously through them on this dirty, dirty roller-coaster these people are on."

It's not just the carnality of Spartacus: Vengeance that will have viewers curiously tuned to the show's premiere this Sunday on The Movie Network however. After original lead actor Andy Whitfield sadly developed cancer, he gave the producers permission to give the role of Spartacus to newcomer Liam McIntyre after auditioning thousands of actors.

"We knew it would be hard because (Andy) was incandescent in the role," admitted Lawless before addressing her new tenacious co-star. "(But) I adore (Liam). The earnestness we're going to winkle out of him somehow but yeah, it's that lionheartedness that will carry him through."

HANDOUT

▶ Lucy Lawless says fans of Spartacus enjoy living vicariously through the characters.

Lawless on Liam McIntyre

▶ "He was so emaciated from doing another role but they kept seeing people and came back to him in the end so he really had to have a lot of heart, he's got the heart of a lion that boy."

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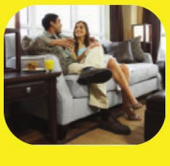

Did Demi suffer seizure?

Embattled star enters rehab Report claims she's being treated for anorexia

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Demi Moore has entered rehab after being rushed to the hospital Monday night for an alleged prescription pill overdose, according to TMZ.

Despite a frantic 911 call and an ambulance dispatched to Moore's home, the actress' reps insist Moore's trip to rehab is for "exhaustion" and nothing more.

"Because of the stresses in her life right now, Demi has chosen to seek professional assistance to treat her exhaustion and improve her overall health," her reps say in a statement.

"She looks forward to getting well and is grateful for the support of her family and friends."

Radar Online reports that actually, Moore had a seizure before she was rushed to the hospital and is now being treated "for anorexia, as well as other issues," a source told the site.

Meanwhile, on the same night she had her breakdown, her estranged husband, Ashton Kutcher, was seen partying with a bevy of beauties at a Bruno Mars concert in Brazil.

It's interesting, isn't it? We spend a lot of time (and editorial space) idolizing these celebrities. We're green-eyed about their wealth, beauty and success.

But whoa — when they crash, they really, really crash. We might not be as thin or as rich, but we normals seem to be able to handle life's problems with a bit more ease.

And really, Demi. Don't let someone as dumb as Ashton Kutcher bring you down. You can — and will — do better.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Demi Moore

Celebrity tweets

@rickygervais

For my 2000th tweet, I give you my favourite ever quote from a "fan" "I used to love Ricky Gervais, but he ruined Extras for me" Amazing.

@victoriabeckham

I'm addicted to kale!! wash, break into small pieces, sprinkle a little salt and roast, it's so good and amazing for u!!!

@Joan_Rivers

Cooper's 10 year-old friend Russell tries to do stand-up comedy so I do what any loving, supportive Grandma would do: I heckle the kid.

@denisleary

Man marries dead girlfriend. I give it 3 weeks before she says "you seem so distant."

Valentine's day wedding bells?

Britney Spears and fiancé Jason Trawick are reportedly planning to get married on Valentine's Day in Maui, according to Hollyscoop.

And just in time for her to tie the knot, Spears' dad is reportedly ready to end his conservatorship, which leaves him in control of decisions affecting her personal and professional life.

"Jamie wants to go to court in early February so Britney will be a free woman in every sense when she marries," a source says, though some predict that the conservatorship will remain in effect for her business affairs.

METRO

Britney Spears

▶ Seal and Heidi

Behind Heidi Klum's decision

Heidi Klum's decision to separate from husband Seal was apparently motivated by wanting to escape his "diva" behaviour, according to Hollywood Life.

"Heidi's first priority has always been her marriage, but she felt like Seal wasn't meeting her halfway," a source says.

"She had to take drastic measures to show Seal she wouldn't put up with his behaviour anymore. Raising happy and healthy kids is now her No. 1 priority."

The source adds that divorce might not actually be inevitable at this point.

"I could see Heidi threatening Seal with a divorce because he thought she would never do such a thing," the source says.

"This may push Seal to finally get the help he needs to deal with his temper in a more constructive manner."

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Trend of the week

LONDON

Winter whites

We've not only been spotting white jeans on the streets of London and New York but on many an editor during the men's runway shows in Milan this past month. They work best when paired with cool blues, neutrals and burgundies as expertly styled above.

MWN

Toronto-based Wesley Badanjak named new designer for Basch label

CONTRIBUTED

Las Vegas: Lingerie model or call girl?

CONTRIBUTED

Russia: Models as acrobats...

CONTRIBUTED

...and little Russian hip hop dancers.

CONTRIBUTED

Stockholm: Sheer simplicity

CONTRIBUTED

Brazil: Runway finale beauty

Worldwide fashion weeks

- On any given day, somewhere in the world, a fashion week is likely taking place
- We look some of the weird, random and genuinely cool ones

RICHARD PECKETT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

The month of runway shows in the big four fashion capitals are just a week away. But New York, London, Milan and Paris are hardly the only cities to put their local talent on show. With each year, the calendar of global fashion weeks seems to multiply with a runway show taking place for every scene you could possibly imagine. Because even dogs deserve a chance to strike a pose.

THE WACKY

New York Pet Fashion Week

Manhattan is a city filled with doggie spas, so it's sadly not surprising that it would be home to a fashion week devoted to fashionable four-legged Prada lovers. It's a reality television series waiting to happen with painfully pruned pooches in bows, crash helmets, sunglasses, floral skirts and even full tuxedos — probably cursing their owners as they trot down the runway.

China Fashion Week

The dramatic effects such as smoke and lighting displays are worthy of a Broadway musical. The costumes range from traditional-inspired robes to sci-fi-style looks of Lady Gaga proportions. We mean a birdcage on a model's head.

CRAZY

Colombia Moda Para El Mundo

This one is the trashy sister fashion week of Colombia Moda. That means plenty of silicon boob implants, bootylicious bums and bursting bee-stung lips. Did we mention that the most recent Columbia Moda Para El Mundo even saw a pile of fake cocaine on the runway?

Las Vegas Lingerie Show

It's a mesmerizing watch for all the wrong reasons. The one-day runway show falls somewhere between an X Factor girl band audition and an aggressive striptease to the beats of an '80s power ballad. In brief, it's awful.

Russian Fashion week

Considering that the country is known for the export of vodka, oil oligarchs and fur-clad brides, it would be a mistake to expect Russia to have a low-key week of fashion. Take the designer YanaStasia, who turned the runway into a playground for gymnastics, a mock marriage proposal and dancing kids. See?

LEGITIMATELY COOL

Stockholm and Copenhagen Fashion Weeks

The Scandinavian brands seem to have a knack for simplicity. The obvious examples are Acne and Cheap Monday. But there's also a crop of new designers such as Odd Molly and Dagmar, showing that there's more to Swedish fashion than just denim. Across the border in Denmark, Anne Sofie Madsen, who worked with creative geniuses John Galliano and Alexander McQueen, is proving to be a real trailblazer.

Istanbul Fashion Week

With its rich history and traditions, it's not surprising that Istanbul Fashion Week is showing its might. Two such names are Atil Kutoglu, who can name-drop Naomi Campbell as a client, and Arzu Kaprol, who has already debuted a collection in Paris. With its heritage meets European aesthetic and burgeoning economy, Turkey has the potential to become a fashion empire.

Fashion Rio

The city's beginning to show that there's more to Rio than beautiful people and beaches, although it sounds like a good starting point to us. Last season saw top model Isabeli Fontana, transsexual Lea T and American It girl Olivia Palermo all take to the runway. Famed for girls flaunting their flawless bikini bods, this fashion week is now moving toward a more grown-up, sportswear aesthetic. Look to labels like Filhas de Gaia and Agatha for proof that the week deserves international attention.

The daughter of campaigns

The saying, "It's not what you know but who you know," couldn't ring more true for the daughters of Cindy Crawford, Annie Lennox, Andrea Dellal and Yasmin le Bon. Crawford's 10-year-old Kaia Gerber has just landed the campaign for Young Versace, Tali Lennox fronts British brand Karen Millen (less bragging rights), Alice Dellal bags Chanel and Marc by Marc Jacobs — not a bad season's work — and Amber le Bon models for Vanessa G's spring/summer line. Yes, it affirms that life's not fair but the hierarchical fashion world works a little like monarchy — you need to prove your bloodline.

MWN

Check out our latest offer on page 33

The men are getting fancy

2011's uprisings and popular period dramas have gone to the designers' heads We look at the trends to come out of the men's autumn/winter shows

RICHARD PECKETT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

MILITARY

It's a men's fashion paradigm that's been reworked on countless occasions and this season was no different. Versace went for camouflage but not the type designed to make you blend in with your surroundings — unless of course you're on an acid trip in a rainbow world. Conversely, Jil Sander's designer Raf Simons found himself in a dark place with a collection worthy of the Gestapo with long leather trench coats and pitch black suits — a comment on oppression, perhaps. If Sanders' men were the secret police, Kris Van Assche's Christian Dior collection supplied the olive-clad, military-meets-baseball-cap-wearing-bully boys. Maybe they were hunting Giorgio Armani's resistance movement with their berets, baggy, pleated combat pants and velvet jackets.

PERIOD DRESS

Prada went down the literary trope of appearance and reality in a show entitled Il Palazzo. A Palace of Role Play with actors, Gary Oldman, Adrien Brody and Jamie Bell all aptly taking to the runway in high double-breasted suits and white collars reminiscent of Fin-de-Siècle chic — they should have topped it off with a cape from Dolce & Gabbana. Alexander McQueen went down a similarly archaic route with pinstripe suits, breeches and Prince of Wales checks. Wearable, yes. But they make for a bold statement. Meanwhile, Gucci also looked to the Fin-de-Siècle and more specifically the troubled poet Arthur Rimbaud (his literature makes for rather sordid reading). Think: floral jacquard suiting, velvet jackets and chunky knits.

TAILORING

Milan's renowned for its suiting and — surprise, surprise — this season is no exception. While most designers were looking to the past, Paul Smith looked to the seaside. Dark, skinny pieces were dotted with neon, nautical motifs, perhaps a nod to modern-day high-vis life-jackets. But while Smith toyed with pops of colour, Hermès returned to sobriety with, yes, slim grey to black, muted tailoring. The colour scheme suggests austerity but I assure you that the price tags will be suitably grand. Meanwhile, the tailoring at Burberry Prorsum arrived slim-cut (noticing a trend?) in shades of grey and later corduroy with military-meets-country wear flight jackets.

▶ Jil Sander

▶ Alexander McQueen

▶ Burberry Prorsum

Jeanne Space

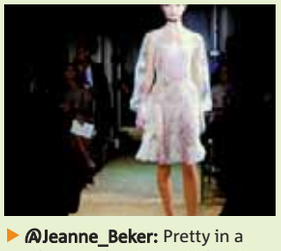
In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker: **Voila les invitations! In Paris and the magic's begun. Going to be "un semain plein d'inspiration!"**

▶ **@Jeanne_Beker:** Stellar couture perfection from @Versace. THIS is what it's all about!

▶ **@Jeanne_Beker:** Glam/deco/punk... Tisci's Givenchy offering is a jaw+dropping collection of only 10 garments...

▶ **@Jeanne_Beker:** Plum perfection at Dior. Designer Bill Gayten really shines in this couture collection....



▶ **@Jeanne_Beker:** Pretty in a sheer pink print, at Valentino. SO different from the edgy fare we've seen this week.

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV.
JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.

Return to slender

THE KIT

Look 10 pounds slimmer instantly with the artful and expert wardrobe advice of Style by Jury's David Clemmer

Top tip to look slimmer?
"The most important thing is the right bra and underwear, or in some cases the right body shaper with extra bust and butt support. It doesn't matter how much you spend on a sweater or what fabulous fabric it's made of, if you're not wearing the proper bra in the proper size, your boobs can sag and make your upper body look boxy and shapeless. A good, supportive bra lifts the bust, allows the waistline to show and creates curves."

GET ALL THE LATEST BEAUTY KNOW-HOW AT THE KIT INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE, AT THEKIT.CA.

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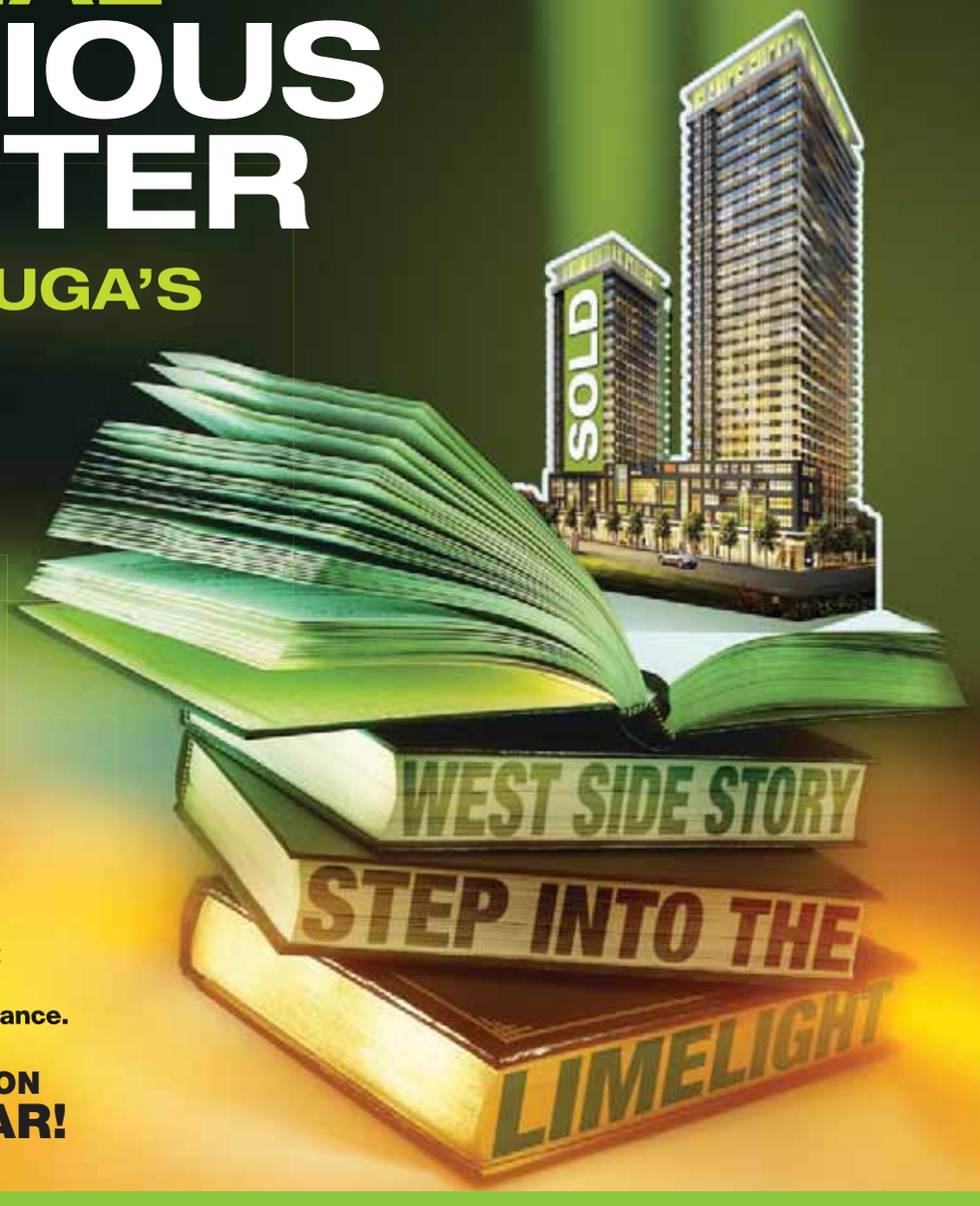

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Toronto's lofty ambitions

The project overview

Coming soon to Beaconsfield Village, Abacus Lofts will offer oversized, livable lofts with terraced balconies and a green roof. These units have a bold, striking architecture complimented by fine crafted interiors.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

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5.14%	RBC	3.10%
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Meet the condo

- **WHAT:** Abacus Lofts
- **BUILDER:** Daz
- **LOCATION:** 1245 Dundas St. W.
- **WEBSITE:** abacuslofts.com
- **PHONE:** 647-931-7223
- **SIZES:** From 469 to 1,284 sq. ft.
- **PRICING:** From the mid $200,000s to over $700,000

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Rendering of Abacus Lofts

Location and transit

Centrally located in Toronto's west downtown, Abacus is right on the Dundas West streetcar line. You can be in the downtown core within 15 minutes. For commuters, a quick jaunt to the Gardiner Expressway gets you on your way.

In the neighbourhood

Located within walking distance to eclectic College Street with its fine dining, coffee shops and interesting stores and the Rua Acores shopping district on Dundas Street West. Beaconsfield Village is a popular area for resident artisans.

Building amenities

Abacus boasts floor-to-ceiling windows with sliding doors open to the balcony and terraces, which all have gas BBQ connections. There's exposed concrete ceilings, custom-designed kitchen cabinetry, stone or quartz surfaced counter tops and European appliances.

Real news. Toronto

EI8HTY8 Preview Opening, 90 Sheppard Ave. E., Jan. 29 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Call 416-915-3805 or visit minto.com to register.
Condo Open House, 1 Shaw St., Unit 1103, Jan. 28-29 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-921-1112
Waterfront Condo, Open House, 36 Charlotte St., Unit 205, Jan. 28-29 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-465-4545
Condo Open House, 55 East Liberty St., Unit 1702, Jan. 28-29 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-534-1124
IDS12 Interior Design Show, Metro Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Jan. 26-29, visit interiordesignshow.com

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

YEAR OF THE CONDO

ROOFTOP SURFING

PAUL GOLINI JR.
HOME
@METRONEWS.CA

You'll have to excuse me for borrowing a headline from BILD's press release last Friday, but there really is no other way to describe 2011 — a year that will long be known for its phenomenal success in the highrise sector.

Some experts, like RealNet Canada Inc. president George Carras, are referring to the 28,000 new condominium units sold in the GTA last year as a market shift, and I couldn't agree more.

What we're seeing today is a huge surge in the demand for highrise housing, likely the result of a combination of factors.

Many people will quickly point to the shortage in land supply in the low-rise market, prompting a record-high gap in new highrise ($434,322) and low-rise ($545,372) homes, thus driving new home buyers to seek out the most affordable homes to match their lifestyle.

Others will credit the towers' superior locations and the popularity of the amenity-rich condo lifestyle. Of course, the modern design and quality of these units also comes to mind.

No matter what attracts you the most about these soaring structures, the 130 new openings in 2011 have pushed the highrise market in the GTA to grab 62 per cent of the new homes market share, which is remarkable when you consider the fact that just 10 years ago, condominium units accounted for only one out of every four new homes sold.

This is looking rather positive on the builders' side as we go through a difficult, complicated approval system to create every development project, with condominiums carrying the most efficient form of approvals in the system today.

This means faster approvals and quicker openings, which is important because according to Carras, the GTA only has 6.5 months of active supply left in the highrise sector.

That's not a lot, and includes all those cranes you see as you drive through the City of Toronto and into York Region — which saw highrise sales more than double over 2010.

PAUL GOLINI JR. IS CHAIR OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (BILD) AND CAN BE FOUND ON TWITTER (TWITTER.COM/BILDGTA), FACEBOOK (FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA), AND BILD'S OFFICIAL ONLINE BLOG (BILDBLOGS.CA).

A little va-va-voom for your living room

Style guru Karl Lohnes tells us how to add colour to a neutral space • Harness your own 'je ne sais quoi'

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Q: I have a living room that is decorated with neutral colours. I'd like to integrate some colour but don't know what type, how to start and how much to add.
S. Smith, London, Ont.

A. Adding colourful accessories to a neutral room is a great way to make it look fashionable and follow some trends without breaking the bank.

First off, determine what your neutral is and work with it. Your 'neutral' could be one of many: crispy white, cream, mossy green, grey, tan are a few of the common neutrals.

Each of these works best with certain strong colours. For instance, lime green works best with cool, sharp, clear neutrals like white, grey or dark brown but is not so good with cream, tan or mossy green.

Trend colours to go with white or grey include citrus colours like lime, orange and yellow.

The best accent colours to complement tan are moss and cream along with rich blues and claret reds or purples.

Easing colour into your room with small accessories (pillows, candles and art) is the simplest way to start. Layer the colour in a few lighter and darker tones; it will give you flexibility when shopping so you don't have to worry about always finding that 'perfect colour.'

Want make a colour look even better? Add in one or two accessories that are opposite on the colour wheel to bring them to life.

For instance, if lime green is your new colour then add a few orange-tones colours to help make the green stand out.

Large ways to add colour (rugs, new paint on a focal wall, curtains) are investments to the room.

Just how much colour should you add to a neutral room? I like the 70/neutral 30/colour rule; that way you won't have too much or too little.

Bring it together

The big secret to adding larger, expensive accessories is to spend in the same category as your neutral furnishings; not more or less.

- For instance, if all your furnishings are from Ikea, then add value-driven accessories; not expensive, upscale items.
- Buy in the same style (modern, Art Deco, country) as your existing furnishings for a cohesive look.

CRATE & BARREL

▶ Citrus colours like orange, yellow and green are great choices to update a room with this season's trend colours.

Real talk on real estate

Metro chats with the president of the Toronto Real Estate Board about condos, taxes and more

DUNCAN MCALLISTER
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Founded in 1920 by a group of real estate practitioners, the not-for-profit Toronto Real Estate Board serves more than 32,000 licensed real estate brokers and salespeople in the GTA.

TREB's website provides an extensive database of real estate listings and open houses, in addition to numerous tools and market intelligence.

What goes up... must come down?

TREB president Richard Silver tells Metro his take on Toronto condo sales. He sees no sign of a market correction.

"It's not something I would predict. I think there are a lot of people who have been predicting it for years, but again and again, the Toronto market seems to have not played into that scenario. I think what happens is we still have a lot of people moving to Toronto in general."

Maple leaf mania

And foreign investors still see Canada as a stable marketplace.

"I know from being in the States and meeting with some international people, they still are seeing Canada as being a very strong marketplace because there's different rules around ownership of property, so it is quite different in Canada and in Toronto."

And in terms of inventory, Toronto should see more available units for sale this year.

According to TREB's new Months of Inventory indicator, "Toronto is in a little better situation as far as numbers of properties on the market. It has been very small," says Silver.

"I think they're predicting a move from about 2.2 to 2.5, which is more in the normal range for Toronto."

Rental market tightens

Toronto's apartment rental supply is shrinking and Silver attributes this to the fact that very few rental buildings are going up.

"Part of the problem is that we haven't had a lot of rental buildings built — it's all condos. We used to have really nice and quite a few great big rental buildings but nobody's building those anymore. So what's happened is that all the condominium stock that we've got is what we are now using as rental stock."

Can Toronto learn from Mississauga?

TREB is hoping that city hall will follow through on their promise to rescind the unpopular Land Transfer Tax which takes a significant chunk out of each property sale.

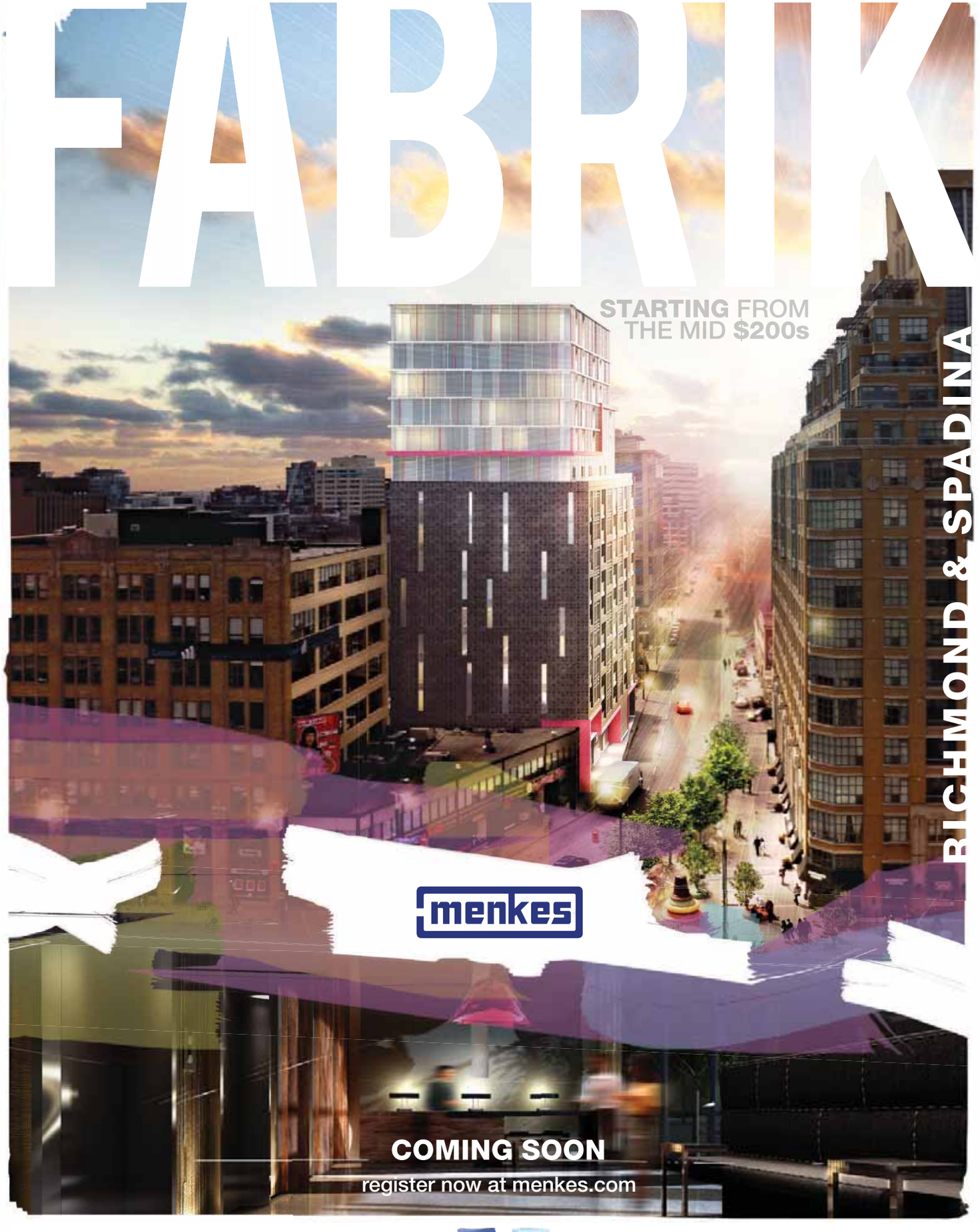
"Part of it means that we're basing our future on the tax. We could have another great year in real estate, but what happens if we have two bad years or three bad years? Then our tax base has gone down," says Silver.

Silver believes that Torontonians would like to see more services for their tax dollar.

"Mississauga's tax rate is way above Toronto's, and they're not complaining at all because they're getting services. And I think that's been the problem; people are concerned that they're not getting services here with whatever it is they're paying."

COURTESY OF TREB

▶ Richard Silver



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PIZZA PLATES, $45, alessi-shop.com

2 Aux Oiseaux by Bernardaud

DISH, $65, artedona.com

3 Kosta Boda

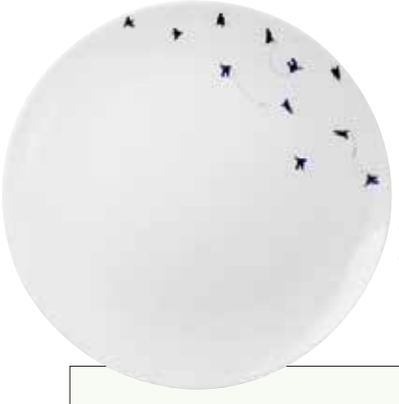
OPEN MINDS DISH 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY BY ULRICA HYDMAN-VALLIEN, $184, artglassvista.com

4 Royal Copenhagen

PRINCESS DINNER PLATE, $94, Bloomingdales.com

5 Ink dish

DECEMBER DINNER PLATE, $24, 2modern.com



6 Le Cadeaux

MELAMINE DINNER PLATE, $17, cooking.com

7 HEL2012

PLATE, €24, $30 iittala.com

8 Jonathan Adler

MOT DOT DINNER PLATE, $25, jonathanadler.com

Global shopping

WORLDLY POTTERY

COPENHAGEN
Denmark — royalcopenhagen.com

- Denmark has a long illustrious history in porcelain china. Royal Copenhagen, formerly The Royal Danish Porcelain Manufactory, is one of the best. Its website offers a variety of functional and collectible dinnerware with traditional Danish graphics that can be shipped internationally.

MARRAKESH
Morocco — justmorocco.com

- Tagines take up space and are heavy enough to rack up some serious overweight charges at the airport. This site offers a variety of all of the traditional ceramics you'd find at a souk with decent shipping prices.

POSITANO
Italy -elisirdipositano.it

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Tips for tiling a cool kitchen backsplash

It's always more fun to throw half-cooked spaghetti at shiny new tiles

DIY IDEAS

If your kitchen needs an update but you don't have the time or money to spend on a complete renovation, brighten it up with a backsplash. Not only will it add texture and colour, but it will help protect the walls from water, food and grease damage.

In every episode of Kitchen Impossible, host Marc Bartolomeo helps homeowners turn their kitchen makeover fantasies into realities.

Here's a few tips on how to tile your kitchen backsplash.

Surface preparation
Be sure that the drywall is secure. Fill any nicks or low spots by patching with drywall compound and sand to level.

Wipe the wall to ensure that the surface is free of dust, oil and residue. This guarantees a strong adhesive bond between the wall and tile.

Determine where to start
Measure the installation site to determine how many tiles you will need to purchase, as well as to locate the best place to start tiling.

It is best to hide cuts in corners and under cabinets, leaving the full tiles in areas that will draw the most attention.

Apply mortar
Begin spreading the glue or mortar with the flat side of a trowel to ensure good adhesion. Using the notched side of the trowel, go over the glue to remove any excess.

The size of the notches will be determined by the thickness of the tile, so be sure to check the manufacturer's recommendations.

Install tiles
Begin installing the first tile or sheet by working off the countertop surface. This will ensure the installation is level because the countertops would have been leveled when installed.

Place tiles in position as close as possible to avoid sliding tiles into place in the mortar.

Tap each tile once with a rubber mallet to ensure they have adhered properly to the mortar.

Make cuts
A dry cutter, wet saw or tile nippers may be used to fit around electrical boxes, cabinets, etc.

Tile saws can be rented at many hardware rental spots, saving you lots of time and stress throughout your renovation.

TUNE IN TO BACK-TO-BACK EPISODES OF KITCHEN IMPOSSIBLE FRIDAYS AT 10 P.M. ET/PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA.

ISTOCK

▶ A good backsplash will protect your kitchen walls from water, food and grease damage — as well as sticky fingers.

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Dear Charles,
We have a Whirlpool Duet 4.5 cu. ft. front-loading washer and it sits on a Whirlpool manufactured stand.

The washer actually moves as it vibrates very badly on spin cycle. Do you have any suggestions for reducing the vibrations?

Catherine
Orleans, Ont.

Dear Catherine,
Although it is normal for the washing machine to vibrate somewhat during the spin cycle in particular, it sounds like yours is vibrating too much.

Firstly, was the machine installed correctly?

Secondly, even if the machine was installed correctly, might it have been moved at some point by a family member or tradesperson trying to make a repair? This would most likely throw off the original installation and calibration.

Another consideration is whether or not the floor that the machine sits on level.

ISTOCK

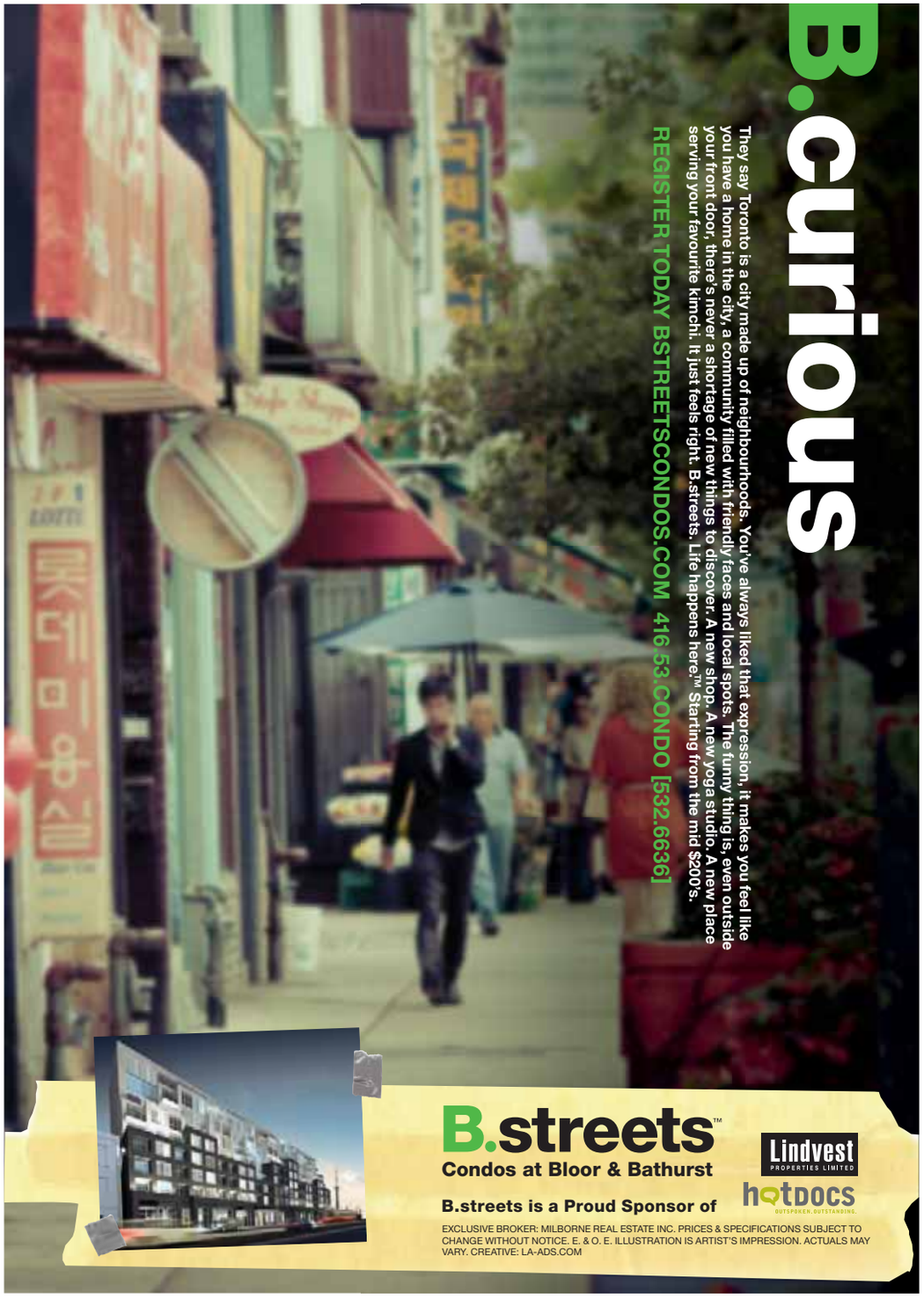
▶ Tip: Your spin cycle shouldn't sound like a small plane is landing in your laundry room.

Lastly, when you load your washing machine, do you evenly distribute the items within the drum?
Once you address the above items, the only remaining option is to call Whirlpool and ask them if they have any other thoughts.

They are likely to suggest an appointment to come to your home and re-balance the machine.

Please let us know what the outcome is and if and how the problem was solved. Good luck!

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND A MESSAGE TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA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LEGAL MATTERS

JEFFREY COWAN
HOME @METRONEWS.CA

I rented a town house in Mississauga in June of 2010 and in August of the same summer during a rain storm, water seeped into basement through the drywall.

I reported the incident and the management fixed the problem.

However, once again a year later, the same seepage happened and then re-occurred in September.

The management agreed to fix the matter but nothing has happened. I wrote to the property manager but there is no fix in sight and a significant portion of the space that I rent and pay for is unusable.

Can I reduce my rent by the amount of space I am not able to use until there is a fix?

Funnily enough, although this may seem a question that a real estate lawyer should be able to answer, there is a specialization in law that deals directly with landlord and tenant law.

In Ontario, there is the Landlord and Tenant Board (ltb.gov.on.ca) which deals with all of these matters.

Although your natural tendency is to simply reduce your rent by the estimated amount of rental space you can't use, I would consult this user-friendly agency to get the answers on how to address this issue.

I would hate for you to be found in default of your rent because you hadn't paid the full rent and were now subject to eviction proceedings.

Tread carefully.

JEFFREY COWAN IS THE PRINCIPAL OF COWAN LAW AND CAN BE REACHED BY EMAIL AT JEFF@COWANLAW.CA.

Bars you'll want to get behind

These yummy Apple Bars are a tasty alternative to pre-packaged, store-bought ones

Weekly Cookbook

Cookies, bars and squares are ultimate comfort foods. With that idea in mind, Jill Snider created her Bake Something Great! cookbook (Robert Rose, 2011). It boasts 400 recipes for goodies such as Frosted Carrot Nut Bars, Cinnamon Raspberry Stacks, Rum Balls and Key Lime Coconut Macaroons.

Both novices and experienced bakers will find Bake Something Great! easy to use thanks to its directions complete with tips and variations. It is split into chapters that include Chocolate Bars and Squares, Drop Cookies, Shortbread, Shaped Cookies and Biscotti and more.

Looking for a yummy dessert or addition for your kids' lunch bag to serve during these cold months?

Apples are a great way to go. This apple-based bar has the texture of a chewy brownie and goes well with a scoop of your favourite ice cream or yogurt for an extra special treat.

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe makes 12 bars.

Preparation:

1. Topping: Peel, core and slice the apples about 1.25 cm (1/2-inch) thick. In a bowl, mix the sugar with cinnamon; add apples and toss to coat evenly. Set aside.
2. Cake: In a large bowl and using electric mixer, beat the butter with sugar for about 1 minute. Beat in the eggs and vanilla until smooth.
3. In another bowl, whisk together the flour, cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda and salt; slowly beat into the butter mixture at medium speed until well blended. Spread in greased 2.5 l (9-inch) square cake pan.
4. Drain any juices from apples that might have accumulated. Arrange the apples on top in four rows, slightly pressing into batter. Bake the mixture in a 180 C (350 F) oven for about 40 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean. Let pan cool on rack.
5. Icing: In a bowl, stir the icing sugar, milk and vanilla until smooth; thin with additional milk if needed. Drizzle over cake.

FOODLAND ONTARIO/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ EMILY RICHARDS (A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients:

Apple Topping
- 2 large apples (such as Empire, McIntosh or Cortland)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) granulated sugar
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cinnamon

Cake
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) butter, softened
- 250 ml (1 cup) packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) all-purpose flour
- 3 ml (3/4 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking powder
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) baking soda
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt

Icing (optional)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) icing sugar, sifted
- 10 to 15 ml (2 to 3 tsp) 2% milk or 5% light cream
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) vanilla

Sweet mingles with salty in delicious breakfast bars They're packed with flax seeds, almonds and more

Not only are these bars a healthy treat with the flavourful taste of almond butter and the crunch of whole almonds, but they're also an upper-body workout. Just like your morning routine, these bars are quick and easy to throw together, and take a bit of muscle power to pack tightly into shape.

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe makes 16 bars.

Preparation:

1. Lightly coat a 9"x13" baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. In a large mixing bowl, gently toss the oats, rice, flax seeds, and almonds to combine.
2. In small saucepan, combine the fine sea salt, sugars, oils, honey, and almond butter. Bring to a simmer over medium-high, whisking any lumps of almond butter smooth, and cook for 2-3 minutes. Slowly pour mixture over dry ingredients while stirring; continue to stir until all of the ingredients are evenly coated.
3. Transfer entire mixture to prepared pan and firmly press into pan while still warm, taking care to evenly distribute whole almonds. Once evenly pressed into pan, sprinkle with 2 to 3 pinches of coarse sea salt and press perfectly flat (using a flat-sided meat tenderizer can be helpful, but not necessary). Let cool to room temperature.
4. Using a ruler, measure and score the bars in half lengthwise to approximately 4 ½" in length, and 1 ½" crosswise to make 16 bars; cut bars following scored lines. Trim edges if desired. Store in an airtight container up to one week.

NEWS CANADA/CREATED BY PASTRY CHEF JENNY MCCOY, OF CRAFT IN NEW YORK CITY, FOR ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA. VISIT ALMONDBOARD.COM FOR MORE RECIPES

Substitutions

Try these ingredients for an alternative twist.

Light brown sugar
Substitute maple sugar with 2 tbsp (30 mL) light brown sugar, if preferred

Canola oil
Substitute almond oil with 1/4 cup (60 mL) canola oil, if preferred.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups (750 mL) rolled oats
- 4 cups (1 L) puffed rice (brown rice recommended)
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) flax seeds
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) whole natural almonds
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) fine sea salt
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) light brown sugar
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) maple sugar
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) almond oil
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) canola oil
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) plus 2 tbsp (30 mL) honey
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) almond butter
- Coarse sea salt, for topping

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The next domino to fall?

THE HOCKEY NEWS

ADAM PROTEAU
TORONTO@METRONEWS.CA

The four-year contract extension Toronto defenceman John-Michael Liles signed on Wednesday doesn't automatically spell the beginning of the end of Luke Schenn's career with the Maple Leafs, but it doesn't exactly solidify the young blueliner's future with the team, either.

When you consider the logjam on the Leafs' blueline, you can see a scenario in which Schenn — not too long ago, the key component of Toronto's defence corps — is traded by general manager Brian Burke to improve the franchise's still-in-need-of-work group of forwards. In fact, I'd say he's the leading candidate to be moved at this point.

When Schenn was drafted fifth overall in 2008, he was pegged as an Adam Foote type. A steady, stay-at-home player who had the leadership potential to one day be the Leafs' captain.

Unfortunately for him, Burke committed larceny on the Calgary Flames and brought in two defencemen in Dion Phaneuf and Keith Aulie. Phaneuf instantly became the team's best blueliner and its captain; Aulie, on the other hand, is a big, physical, stay-at-home type.

That doesn't mean they brought the same specific skills as the 22-year-old Schenn, but their arrival added to the team's depth and balance. So too did the continuing development of 25-year-old Carl Gunnarsson (on many nights the Leafs' best two-way defenceman), 24-year-old Cody Franson (who recovered from a rocky start to the season to now be one of coach Ron Wilson's most dependable d-men), and 21-year-old training camp surprise Jake Gardiner.

Add a re-signed Liles to that mix, as well as relative greybeard Mike Komisarek (who, isn't an attractive trade option with two years and $9 million left on his contract after this season), to go with prospects Korbinian Holzer, Jesse Blacker and Stuart Percy, and it becomes clear something has to give — especially when everyone knows Toronto needs more top-six forwards.

You're not going to get anything of quality if you don't give up something of quality. And although Schenn's stock in Toronto has dropped precipitously — he's averaging 16:24 of ice time so far this season, one second less than Aulie, who spent most of the first two months in the AHL — he still has enough talent to fetch Burke something solid in return.

If and when Schenn is traded, some will say Toronto is once again mortgaging its future by trading away an important young player. That's not true any longer. The Leafs now have enough important young players to acquire different kinds of important young players. And that's a very positive sign, whether or not Schenn is here to enjoy it.

Leafs lock up Liles

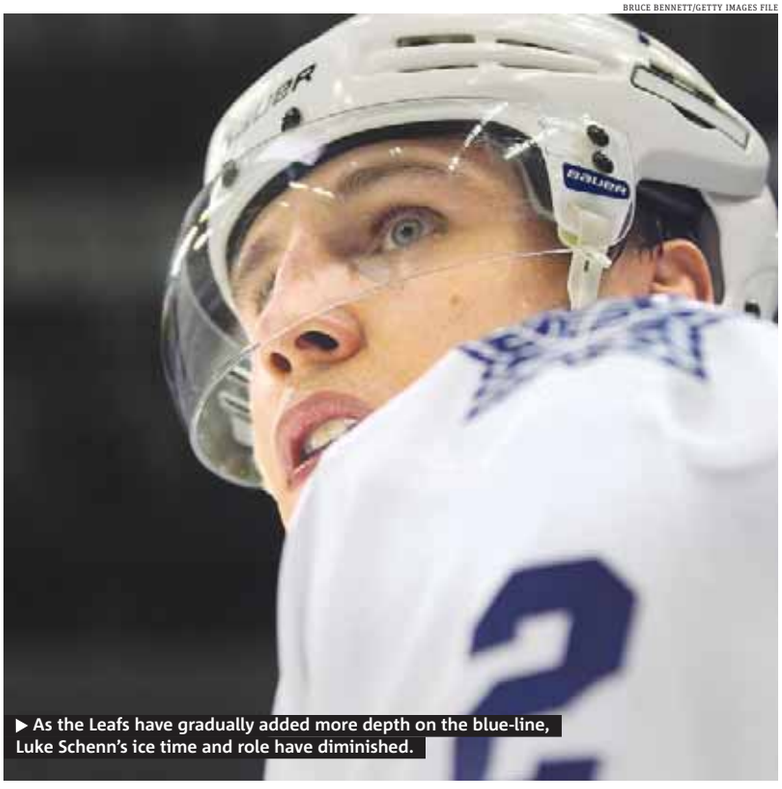
He could've tested the free-agent waters this summer, but there was never a doubt in John-Michael Liles' mind where wanted to play.

Liles signed a $15.5-million US, four-year extension with the Maple Leafs on Wednesday.

"It's a pretty special feeling when Burkie (Leafs GM Brian Burke) went out and traded for me and knowing that he wants me there for years to come," Liles said during a conference call.

Liles has been out since Dec. 22 with a concussion and is expected to return to the lineup after the all-star break. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES FILE



▶ As the Leafs have gradually added more depth on the blue-line, Luke Schenn's ice time and role have diminished.

Plenty of all-star firsts in Ottawa

Eighteen all-star rookies heading to big game, reflecting a season of surprise performances

Dennis Wideman thought he'd been traded. Scott Hartnell worried he'd be facing a suspension.

What both men failed to consider was that their phone was ringing with an invitation to Sunday's NHL's all-star game at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa.

Wideman is among the most anonymous invitees. A seven-year pro, the Washington Capitals defenceman is in the midst of a career season, but got nervous when general manager George McPhee called him earlier this month to deliver what turned out to be great news.

"When he called me, I was like, 'Aw man, where am I going now?'" said Wideman. "I didn't know what was going on. But in my experience, when a GM calls you, it's usually not good news."

Hartnell's first all-star invitation comes in his 11th NHL season and is recognition for the great offensive season he's put together for the Philadelphia Flyers.

"It almost seems a little far-fetched at times."
SCOTT HARTNELL ON PLAYING IN THE ALL-STAR GAME

The 29-year-old was named as an injury replacement this week.

"I think of myself as a good hockey player, but you look at the all-star game and the names that have been there in the past ... and to think of yourself part of that group is hard," Hartnell told the Philadelphia Daily News.

All but one of the league's top-15 scorers entering play Wednesday will participate in the event. THE CANADIAN PRESS

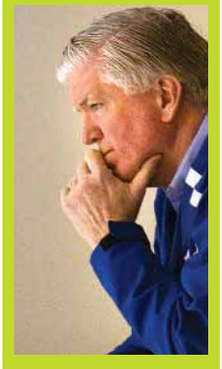
Neal in for Ovie

Alexander Ovechkin, who decided to pull out of the all-star game after receiving a three-game suspension, was replaced by Penguins winger James Neal on Wednesday.

▶ Neal, who would have been a notable omission after entering the break with 27 goals, is also an all-star rookie.

4 sports

Quoted



"We're not even close to that. That will be a factor, whether a guy is unrestricted or not, but I accept unrestricted guys, too, if they can help us get to where we want to get."
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS GM BRIAN BURKE, DOWNPLAYING ANY TALK OF TRADING CENTRE MIKHAIL GRABOVSKI, WHO IS AN UNRESTRICTED FREE AGENT THIS SUMMER.

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Sports in pictures

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5. PATRICK MCDERMOTT/GETTY IMAGES

1 Kevin Love has agreed to a four-year contract extension with the Minnesota Timberwolves worth more than $60 million US that allows him to opt out after three years.

2 Indianapolis hired Baltimore Ravens defensive co-ordinator Chuck Pagano as its new coach Wednesday .

3 The Oakland Raiders are finalizing a deal with Denver defensive co-ordinator Dennis Allen to make him their new head coach.

4 Nicklas Lidstrom's consecutive-games streak ended at 213 on Wednesday night when the Detroit Red Wings captain sat out against the Montreal Canadiens because of the flu.

5 The NFL extended commissioner Roger Goodell's contract through the 2018 season Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copeland retires, takes job with Ticats

Jeremaine Copeland had dedicated the 2011 season to the memory of his father, vowing to have one of his best years ever. It turned out to be his worst — and also his last.

"I just took that as a sign," one of the Canadian Football League's best all-time receivers said Wednesday after announcing his retirement from the Toronto Argonauts and then his new career as receivers coach with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

"It was a tough decision, especially with the moves they made in the off-season, bringing in Ricky Ray and then having the Grey Cup here.

"But I have no regrets about it. You can't play forever."

Copeland, who last season became the 15th player to top 10,000 career receiving yards, is proud of an 11-year career that gave him two Grey Cup rings and two league all-star nominations.

"I know that I left everything I had out on the field and I have no regrets," the 34-year-old Tennessee native said.

"I'm really looking forward to this. It's a great opportunity."

Copeland started his CFL career with the Montreal Alouettes in 2002 before joining Calgary in 2005 and Toronto in 2010.

He also spent time in the NFL with the Tennessee Titans and Dallas Cowboys, and won an XFL championship with the Los Angeles Xtreme in 2001.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Jeremaine Copeland

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	47	31	12	1	3	132	96	66	15-5-0-2	16-7-1-1	7-3-0-0	W2
d-Boston	47	31	14	1	1	171	101	64	16-7-1-1	15-7-0-0	5-4-1-0	L1
d-Washington	48	26	19	1	2	136	137	55	18-6-0-1	8-13-1-1	5-4-1-0	W1
Philadelphia	48	29	14	2	3	162	142	63	11-7-1-2	18-7-1-1	6-3-0-1	W1
Pittsburgh	49	28	17	2	2	152	127	60	14-8-2-0	14-9-0-2	7-3-0-0	W7
Ottawa	52	27	19	4	2	157	160	60	14-9-0-1	13-10-4-1	6-4-0-0	L3
New Jersey	48	26	19	1	2	129	136	55	12-9-0-2	14-10-1-0	4-4-1-1	L3
Florida	48	22	15	5	6	122	136	55	11-5-1-6	11-10-4-0	3-2-3-2	L1
Toronto	49	25	19	3	2	151	147	55	14-8-2-2	11-11-1-0	6-4-0-0	W2
Winnipeg	50	22	22	3	3	124	143	50	15-8-0-2	7-14-3-1	3-6-0-1	L3
Montreal	49	19	21	2	7	130	134	47	9-10-2-4	10-12-0-2	6-2-0-2	W2
Tampa Bay	48	21	23	1	3	136	165	46	13-7-0-1	8-16-1-2	4-5-0-1	W4
NY Islanders	48	19	22	5	2	115	143	45	11-11-4-0	8-11-1-2	5-4-1-0	L2
Buffalo	49	20	24	3	2	119	149	45	11-9-3-2	9-15-0-0	2-7-1-0	W1
Carolina	51	18	24	5	4	130	159	45	13-11-0-3	5-13-5-1	5-3-1-1	W1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	50	33	16	1	0	160	117	67	20-2-1-0	13-14-0-0	9-1-0-0	L1
d-Vancouver	49	30	15	0	4	158	122	64	14-6-0-3	16-9-0-1	6-2-0-2	W2
d-San Jose	47	27	14	3	3	131	110	60	15-8-2-0	12-6-1-3	4-3-1-2	W1
St. Louis	49	29	13	1	6	124	102	65	21-3-1-3	8-10-0-3	7-1-1-1	L2
Nashville	50	30	16	3	1	140	127	64	16-7-2-1	14-9-1-0	9-1-0-0	W4
Chicago	50	29	15	3	3	162	144	64	19-6-1-3	10-9-2-0	5-3-2-0	L2
Los Angeles	50	24	16	4	6	111	111	58	14-11-0-4	10-5-4-2	5-2-1-2	W1
Minnesota	49	24	18	2	5	115	126	55	13-6-1-2	11-12-1-3	3-6-0-1	W2
Colorado	51	26	23	2	0	131	144	54	14-12-0-0	12-11-2-0	4-5-1-0	L2
Dallas	48	25	21	0	2	126	136	52	14-9-0-2	11-12-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
Calgary	50	23	21	3	3	120	137	52	13-7-1-1	10-14-2-2	5-3-1-1	L1
Phoenix	50	22	20	3	5	130	134	52	10-9-2-2	12-11-1-3	3-4-1-2	W1
Anaheim	48	18	23	3	4	124	144	43	13-12-1-0	5-11-2-4	8-1-1-0	L1
Edmonton	49	18	26	1	4	122	142	41	12-8-1-2	6-18-0-2	2-6-1-1	L1
Columbus	49	13	30	1	5	115	163	32	8-13-1-2	5-17-0-3	3-6-0-1	L4

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's result
Montreal 7 Detroit 2
Tuesday's results
Toronto 4 N.Y. Islanders 3 (OT)
Vancouver 3 Edmonton 2 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 3 Winnipeg 0
Phoenix 3 Ottawa 2
San Jose 1 Calgary 0
Buffalo 2 New Jersey 1 (SO)
Dallas 1 Anaheim 0
Minnesota 3 Colorado 2
Nashville 3 Chicago 1
Philadelphia 3 Florida 2 (SO)
Pittsburgh 3 St. Louis 2 (SO)
Tampa Bay 4 Columbus 2
Washington 5 Boston 3
NHL ALL-STAR BREAK
At Ottawa
Thursday
All-star Draft, 8 p.m.
Saturday
All-star skills competition, 7 p.m.
Sunday
All-star game, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 31
Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Anaheim at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Chicago at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Columbus at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

CANADIENS 7, RED WINGS 2

First Period
1. Montreal, Bourque 15 (Gomez, Diaz) 5:08
2. Montreal, Emelin 1 (Kostitsyn) 10:56
3. Montreal, Desharnais 8 (Cole) 17:58
4. Montreal, Plekanec 10 (Bourque, Kaberle) 19:33
Penalties — Eller Mtl (tripping) 5:45, Gill Mtl (hooking) 14:04, Kindl Det (hooking) 16:12, Subban Mtl (elbowing) 16:30.
Second Period
5. Montreal, Pacioretty 17 (Desharnais, Cole) 1:52
6. Montreal, Desharnais 9 (Pacioretty, Kaberle) 4:18 (pp)
Penalties — Ericsson Det (tripping) 3:27, Emelin Mtl (cross-checking) 6:33.
Third Period
7. Detroit, Hudler 14 (Helm) 0:21
8. Detroit, Hudler 15 (Commodore, Kronwall) 6:07
9. Montreal, Cole 19 (Eller) 18:37
Penalty — Ericsson Det (tripping) 8:11.
Shots on goal

Detroit	6	12	9	—27
Montreal	12	5	8	—25

Goal (shots-saves) — Detroit: Howard (L,30-11-1)(12-8), Conklin (0:00 second, 13-11); Montreal: Price (W,17-17-8).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Detroit: 0-4; Montreal: 1-3.
Referees — Frederik l'Ecuyer, Kelly Sutherland. **Linesmen** — Matt MacPherson, Derek Nansen.
Attendance — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

LATE TUESDAY

CANUCKS 3, OILERS 2 (SO)

First Period
1. Vancouver, D.Sedin 21 (Burrows, Hamhuis) 10:24
Penalties — None.
Second Period
2. Edmonton, Horcoff 9 (Hall, Hemsky) 9:43
Penalty — Belanger Edm (hooking) 2:07.
Third Period
3. Vancouver, Booth 8 (Kesler, Higgins) 5:00
4. Edmonton, Hall 16 (Potter, Hemsky) 15:49 (pp)
Penalties — Petry Edm (hooking) 5:10, Hamhuis Vcr (interference) 14:58.
Overtime — No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Shootout — Vancouver wins 2-1
Edmonton (1) — Eberle, miss; Gagner, miss; Hemsky, goal; Hall, miss, Horcoff, miss; **Vancouver (2)** — Edler, goal; Raymond, miss; Burrows, miss; Kesler, miss; Hodgson, goal.
Shots on goal

Edmonton	12	9	8	3—32
Vancouver	9	7	11	8—35

Goal — Edmonton: Dubnyk (L,7-11-1); Vancouver: Luongo (W,20-10-4). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Edmonton: 1-1; Vancouver: 0-2.
Attendance — 18,890 (18,890) at Vancouver.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Malkin, Pgh	26	32	58
Giroux, Pha	18	37	55
Ma.Hossa, Chi	20	33	53
Datsyuk, Det	14	39	53
Stamkos, TB	32	20	52
Lupul, Tor	20	32	52
H.Sedin, Vcr	11	41	52

Last night's game not included

NFL PLAYOFFS

PRO BOWL

Sunday's game
At Honolulu
All times Eastern
NFC vs. AFC, 7 p.m.

SUPER BOWL

Sunday, Feb. 5
At Indianapolis
New England vs. N.Y. Giants, 6:20 p.m.

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Buffalo	2	2	0	1.000	26	19	—
Rochester	2	1	1	.500	31	24	1
Philadelphia	2	1	1	.500	22	31	1
Toronto	2	0	2	.000	19	26	2

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Colorado	3	3	0	1.000	46	38	—
Calgary	3	2	1	.667	37	32	1
Minnesota	1	0	1	.000	14	20	2
Edmonton	1	0	1	.000	12	13	2
Washington	2	0	2	.000	19	23	2½

WEEK FOUR
Tomorrow's games
All times Eastern
Rochester at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
Buffalo at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Rochester at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at Washington, 10:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Suspended free-agent minor league LHP Dustin Richardson and free-agent minor league 1B Daryle Ward 50 games for violations of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with INF Robert Andino on a one-year contract.
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Andrew Bailey on a one-year contract.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Roman Colon on a minor league contract.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with OF Andruw Jones on a one-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Agreed to terms with RHP Brad Ziegler on a one-year contract.
CINCINNATI REDS — Traded LHP Jeremy Horst to Philadelphia for INF Wilson Valdez. Agreed to terms with RHP Nick Masset on a two-year contract and UT Willie Harris on a minor league contract.
COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with RHP Rafael Betancourt on a two-year contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jason Motte on a one-year contract.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Named Bob Mariano manager of Fresno (PCL); Steve Kline pitching coach of San Jose (Cal); Mike Caldwell pitching coach and Nestor Rojas hitting coach of Augusta (SAL); Hector Borg coach of Salem-Keizer (NWL); Derin McMains manager, Michael Couchee pitching coach and Billy Horton hitting coach of the Arizona League Giants; and Steve Decker coordinator of minor league hitting instruction.

BASKETBALL

NBA

LEAGUE OFFICE — Suspended Phoenix C Robin Lopez one game for improper conduct towards a game official during Tuesday's game against Toronto.
CHARLOTTE BOBCATS — Exercised their fourth-year contract option on G-F Gerald Henderson.

FOOTBALL

NFL

LEAGUE OFFICE — Signed commissioner Roger Goodell to a contract extension through the 2018 season.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Named Chuck Pagano coach.

CFL

CALGARY STAMPEDERS — Signed QB Drew Tate to a three-year contract extension.

HOCKEY

NHL

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Assigned F Ben Smith and F Brandon Pirri to Rockford (AHL).
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Assigned LW Dane Byers to Springfield (AHL).
OTTAWA SENATORS — Reassigned D Mark Borowiecki and F Andre Petersson to Binghamton (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES — Assigned D Chris Summer, D Maxim Goncharov and F Marc-Antoine Pouliot to Portlnad (AHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Assigned F Chris Porter to Peoria (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned D Evan Oberg, F Mike Angelidis, F Trevor Smith and F Pierre-Cedric Labrie to Norfolk (AHL).
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Assigned F Cody Eakin to Hershey (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS — Reassigned F Patrice Cormier and F Aaron Gagnon to St. John's (AHL).

AHL

NORFOLK ADMIRALS — Returned D Kevin Quick to Florida (ECHL). Released F Michael Pelech.

LACROSSE

NLL

WASHINGTON STEALTH — Signed F Brett Bucktooth.

SOCCER

MLS

COLUMBUS CREW — Named Brook Hamilton strength and conditioning coach.
D.C. UNITED — Signed D Emiliano Dudar.
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed G Jeremy Vuolo.
SEATTLE SOUNDERS — Added Sounders FC U-23 (PDL) to its youth development program.

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

At Melbourne, Australia
Wednesday's results
Men's Singles — Quarter-finals
Andy Murray (4), Britain, def. Kei Nishikori (24), Japan, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. David Ferrer (5), Spain, 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-1.
Women's Singles — Quarterfinals
Petra Kvitova (2), Czech Republic, def. Sara Errani, Italy, 6-4, 6-4.
Maria Sharapova (4), Russia, def. Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, 6-2, 6-3.
Men's Doubles — Quarterfinals
Max Mirnyi, Belarus, and **Daniel Nestor (2), Toronto,** def. Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Christopher Kas (12), Germ., 6-1, 6-7 (4), 6-2.
Junior Boy's Singles — Third Round
Filip Peliwo, Vancouver, def. Marek Routa, Czech Republic, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.
Junior Girl's Singles — Third Round
Eugenie Bouchard (2), Westmount, Que., def. Christina Makarova, United States, 7-5, 7-5.
Junior Boy's Doubles — Quarterfinals
Andrew Harris and Nick Kyrgios (4), Australia, def. Pedja Krstin, Serbia, and **Filip Peliwo (7), Vancouver,** 6-4, 6-7 (6), 10-3 tiebreak.
Junior Girl's Doubles — Quarterfinals
Ilka Csoregi, Romania,and Elizaveta Kulichkova (3), Russia, def. **Eugenie Bouchard, Westmount, Que.,** and **Carol Zhao (8), Richmond Hill, Ont.,** 6-4, 6-2.

NBA

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	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Chicago	16	3	.842	—
d-Atlanta	13	5	.722	2½
Miami	13	5	.722	2½
d-Philadelphia	12	6	.667	3½
Orlando	12	5	.706	3
Indiana	11	5	.688	3½
Boston	7	9	.438	7½
Milwaukee	7	10	.412	8
Cleveland	7	10	.412	8
New York	7	11	.389	8½
New Jersey	6	13	.316	10
Toronto	5	13	.278	10½
Detroit	4	15	.211	12
Washington	3	15	.167	12½
Charlotte	3	16	.158	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	14	3	.824	—
Denver	12	5	.706	2
Utah	10	5	.667	3
d-L.A. Clippers	9	5	.643	3½
d-San Antonio	11	7	.611	3½
Portland	11	7	.611	3½
Dallas	11	7	.611	3½
Memphis	10	7	.588	4
L.A. Lakers	10	8	.556	4½
Houston	10	8	.556	4½
Minnesota	7	10	.412	7
Phoenix	6	11	.353	8
Sacramento	6	12	.333	8½
Golden State	5	11	.313	8½
New Orleans	3	14	.176	11

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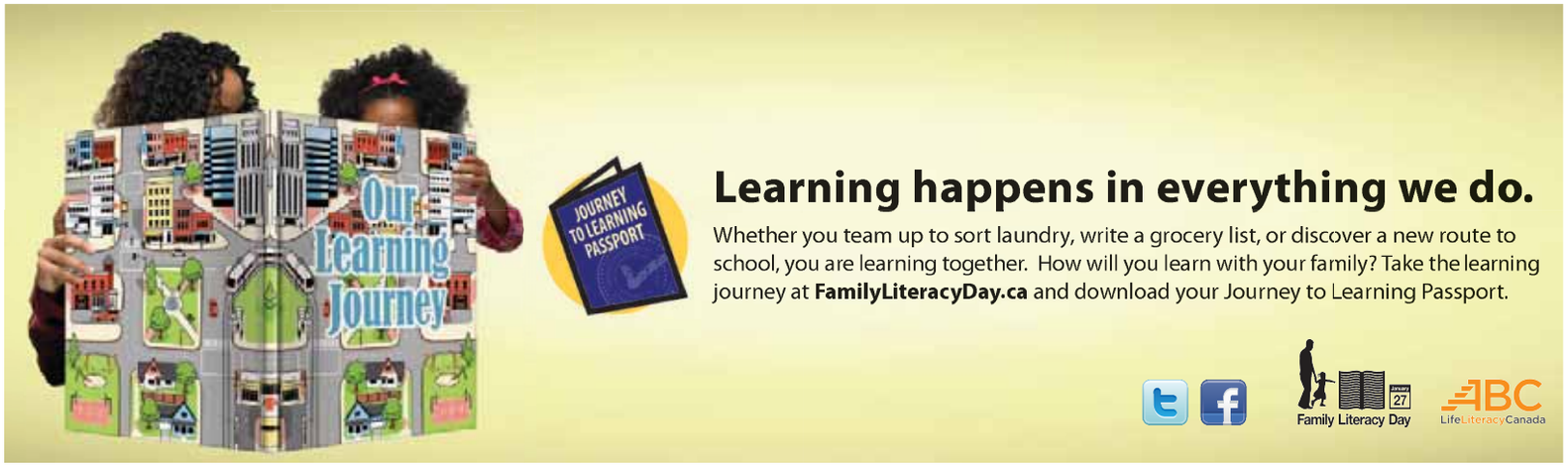
Last night's results
Cleveland 91 New York 81
Washington 92 Charlotte 75
New Jersey 97 Philadelphia 90 (OT)
Miami 101 Detroit 98
Milwaukee 105 Houston 99
Indiana at Chicago
New Orleans at Oklahoma City
Minnesota at Dallas
Atlanta at San Antonio
Toronto at Utah
Denver at Sacramento
Portland at Golden State
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers
Tuesday's results
New York 111 Charlotte 78
Orlando 102 Indiana 83
Miami 92 Cleveland 85
Toronto 99 Phoenix 96
Portland 97 Memphis 84
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Boston at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8 p.m.
Orlando at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
New York at Miami, 8 p.m.
Utah at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Denver, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.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NFL will let players use Twitter during Pro Bowl

Hawaii makes everyone a little more laid back, including the NFL.

The NFL is relaxing its social media policy and allowing players to tweet before and during Sunday's Pro Bowl.

The league on Wednesday said it will set up a computer on each sideline where players are encouraged to use Twitter to communicate with fans, teammates and even opponents during commercial breaks and when their offensive or defensive unit is not on the field.

Tweeting is voluntary and only one player per team may tweet at a time.

Mobile devices will not be allowed during the game. The players can, however, tweet from their phones before the game and at halftime. Facebook and other popular social media platforms are not included.

"This is an innovative way to further engage our fans who have an insatiable appetite for football," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said. "NFL players have been very active on social media and enjoying talking to fans. The nature of the Pro Bowl enables us to have players tweet during the game."

The existing policy bans players from tweeting 90 minutes before games all the way until they fulfil their post-game media obligations.

The Pro Bowl experiment is not being considered for the regular season or playoffs, the NFL said.

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And then there were four

Djokovic, Murray advance to join Nadal and Federer in Australian Open semifinals

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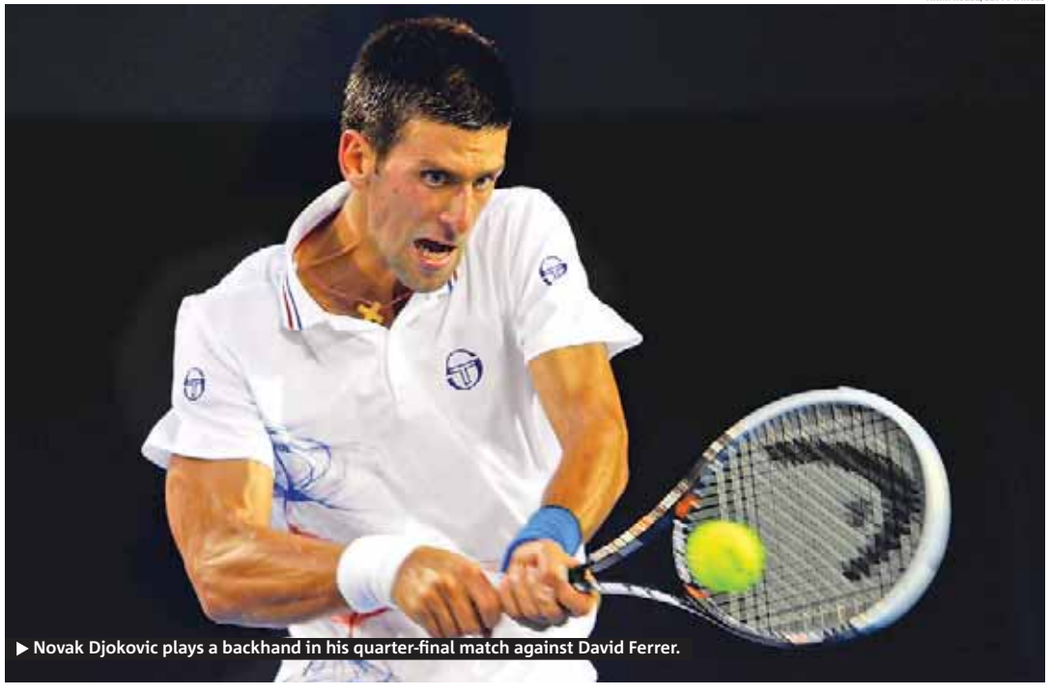

▶ Novak Djokovic plays a backhand in his quarter-final match against David Ferrer.

Appearing uncomfortable for much of the match, defending champion Novak Djokovic held on to beat David Ferrer 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-1 and complete a blockbuster semifinal lineup at the Australian Open.

He leads the top four men in tennis into the semis at Melbourne Park — Djokovic against No. 4 Andy Murray, who won his quarter-final match earlier Wednesday 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 over Kei Nishikori of Japan.

On Thursday, No. 2 Rafael Nadal plays No. 3 Roger Federer, the first time the two former top-ranked stars have met in a semifinal since the 2005 French Open.

It marks only the third time that the top four seeds have advanced to the semis at the Australian Open — previously it was in 1988 and 2005. It was also the 14th time at all Grand Slams since the Open Era began in 1968, but it has happened in three of the last four — after the U.S. Open and French Open last year.

Djokovic rubbed the back of his upper left leg on several occasions, looked on the verge of being physically sick in the second set and buried his head in towels several times during breaks. Late in the third set, a tired-looking Djokovic sat down on a linesman's chair during a line-call video challenge by Ferrer.

"I was lucky to get out of the second set, it was a big mental advantage to get two sets up," Djokovic said.

An hour after the match, Djokovic further played down the possibility of any injuries, saying: "I don't have any physical issues."

"I feel very fit and I feel mentally, as well, very fresh," he told his post-match news conference. "It's just today I found it very difficult after a long time to breathe because I felt the whole day my nose was closed a little bit. I just wasn't able to get enough oxygen."

Ferrer said he couldn't be sure if Djokovic was healthy — or not.

"You have to ask to him," Ferrer said. "He ran perfect all the match. Nothing special."

The Nadal-Federer semifinal matchup has been rarely possible because the pair held the top two spots for most of the time between 2005 and 2010, meaning they could only meet in the finals after being placed in opposite sides of the draw.

Djokovic said he'd be watching the Nadal and Federer match like any tennis fan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doubles

In men's doubles action, Toronto's Daniel Nestor and Belarusian partner Max Mirnyi reached the semifinals, defeating Santiago Gonzalez of Mexico and German Christopher Kas 6-1, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2.

TFC set to keep Eckersley around

On the eve of the season, Toronto FC has locked up a key member of its backline.

A deal to keep English defender Richard Eckersley in a Reds jersey is expected to be announced as early as Thursday, according to sources close to the negotiations.

Eckersley, a 22-year-old who began his career in the youth program at Manchester United and eventually played two games for the senior club, joined TFC last season on loan from Burnley FC and became an integral part of the Reds defence corps.

Eckersley appeared in 23 regular season games for the Reds, 22 of them starts, and was also a significant contributor to their Canadian championship and advancement into the quarter-finals of CONCACAF Champions League.

At the end of the season, he made it clear that he wanted to stay with Toronto.

On Wednesday, Eckersley got his wish, as Burnley agreed to terminate his contract, which was a four-year deal signed in July of 2009. That set the stage for a deal with TFC.

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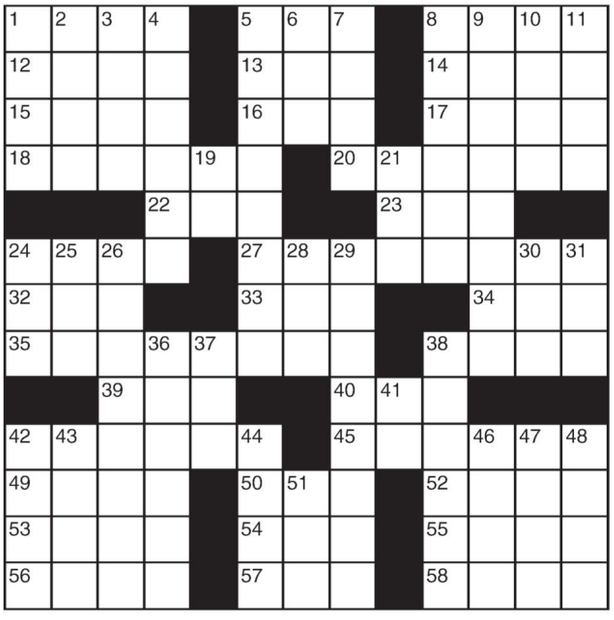

Across

1 Put on layaway, perhaps
5 Fool
8 Capri or Wight
12 Appellation
13 Hockey legend Bobby
14 Blunder
15 Stonestreet of "Modern Family"
16 Keanu's "Matrix" role
17 One
18 Bounded
20 Jimmy Carter's Georgia home
22 Angry group
23 Hostel
24 React in horror
27 Loads, as software
32 Id counterpart
33 Old Olds
34 Fine, to NASA
35 Herring's cousin
38 Go back and forth
39 Fireworks response
40 Go blue?
42 French brandy
45 Fireplace area
49 Shrek is one
50 Mimic
52 Will be (Sp.)
53 Dispatch
54 Mainlander's memento
55 Not procrastinating
56 Fixes a skirt
57 Felon's flight
58 Iditarod terminus

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2 Distort
3 Eastern potentate
4 Leave suddenly
5 Sparrow or skylark
6 Exist
7 Item on stage
8 Tropical lizard
9 New family member
10 Pork cut
11 Salamanders
19 "Forget it!"
21 Torched
24 Jewel
25 Census statistic
26 Ultrasound image
28 Born
29 Author of "Finishing the Hat"
30 Mauna —
31 The air up there
36 Sweethearts
37 "Caught ya!"
38 Spring, for one
41 "As — sow ..."
42 Brit's blackjack
43 Lecher's look
44 Be an umpire
46 Gambling mecca
47 Decorate
48 Loathe
51 Shell game item

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	A	F	E	■	S	I	N	■	S	P	R	Y
O	X	E	N	■	K	O	I	■	C	L	U	E
P	L	E	D	G	I	N	G	■	H	U	L	A
H	E	T	U	P	■	■	H	A	M	M	E	R
■	■	■	R	O	T	C	■	L	O	B	■	■
L	O	P	E	■	R	E	N	T	■	I	R	A
A	W	L	■	V	I	D	E	O	■	N	U	N
G	E	O	■	A	P	E	X	■	A	G	E	D
■	■	■	T	A	N	■	S	T	E	W	■	■
M	A	T	T	E	S	■	■	R	A	D	I	O
I	R	I	S	■	P	L	A	N	K	I	N	G
N	I	N	E	■	A	I	L	■	E	V	I	L
G	A	G	A	■	T	E	E	■	N	A	T	E

Sudoku

	6		2					
		1		6				7
		3		9	7	6	8	
		9						6
	1	5		7		9	4	
4						1		
	2	6	7	4		5		
1				3		2		
					8		9	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

8	4	2	1	3	5	6	7	9
9	6	7	4	8	2	1	5	3
1	3	5	6	9	7	2	4	8
2	5	9	3	4	8	7	1	6
4	1	8	7	6	9	5	3	2
3	7	6	5	2	1	9	8	4
5	9	3	2	7	4	8	6	1
6	8	1	9	5	3	4	2	7
7	2	4	8	1	6	3	9	5

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

like ur face,
i miss ur face xoooo **ALWAYS**

Jeff,
Babe. Happy birthday! It would be our first time celebrate your birthday together. Wish many more to come. It's been joyful knowning you. Thank you for being there with me in the past 101 days with me. You make me :) **MEI**

Mr. 341
You are absolutely handsome. I have thee biggest crush on you!
SMITTEN PASSENGER

friend
oh well, well accepted role and back to reality willing to finish! Realized fooled no hope, no truly.Wish I was given another chance. My fault don't blame anyone but myself! In a lot of pain.
WHEN TO STARR

Today 2°/-1° Rain and snow 40%
Friday 3°/-2° Partly cloudy
Your #1 weather forecast now available in HD.
Check your local listings for details.
The Weather Network HD
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Don't get involved in a feud unless you know you can win it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Some situations change so fast that there is really no point in trying to direct events. Back off.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
Someone in a position of power will try to persuade you that a certain course of action is in your best interests. You know it isn't true.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Today, you must ignore all of the exciting events happening in your world and focus on getting your money situation in better shape.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
Someone seems to disagree with just about everything you say and do. Pretend he or she doesn't exist.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Take care that you don't fall out with someone in a position of authority today. It's good politics.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Libras are tougher than they sometimes look and anyone who doubts that will learn today just how resolute and committed you can be.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
For best results today, focus your energy on something creative that you can do on your own.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Partners will follow your lead today, but only if you persuade them it is in their best interests.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You will be in a charitable mood over the next 24 hours but watch out you don't give too much away.

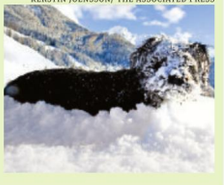
♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Go with the flow today and don't worry that you can't yet see your final destination. It'll be great.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Deep questions seem to be taking up a lot of your time, and that's good. They're the questions that really matter. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KERSTIN JOENSSON/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

LOOKING TO MAKE A CAREER CHANGE?
Read metrowork every Monday & Wednesday.

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0% FINANCING FOR UP TO **84** MONTHS

AND

0 PAYMENTS FOR UP TO **90** DAYS◊

Limited model shown

2012 SANTA FE

Powerful & efficient – the true definition of a cross-over

OWN IT **$143**† BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE $25,895• SANTA FE GL 2.4 6-SPEED. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED PLUS HST.

HIGHWAY **7.7**L/100 KM **37** MPG▼

THE BEST-SELLING PASSENGER CAR BRAND IN CANADA.‡

Limited model shown

OWN IT **$121**† BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **2.65%** FINANCING FOR **72** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE $17,380• ELANTRA L 6-SPEED. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

HIGHWAY **4.9**L/100 KM **58** MPG▼

NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

2012 ELANTRA SEDAN

2012 North American Car of the Year

AJAC www.ajac.ca

Automobile Journalists Association of Canada

AJAC's Best new small car over $21K

OWN IT **$141**† BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **1.29%** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE $24,400• SONATA GL 6-SPEED. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

HIGHWAY **5.7**L/100 KM **50** MPG▼

2012 SONATA

★★★★★ AWARDED THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT CRASH SAFETY RATING U.S. NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

5-Star safety rating▲

Limited model shown

Limited model shown

OWN IT **$126**† BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **1.29%** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE $21,895• TUCSON L 5-SPEED. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

HIGHWAY **7.4**L/100 KM **38** MPG▼

2012 TUCSON

Stylish cross-over utility vehicle

5 YEAR WARRANTY

100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY◊

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HyundaiCanada.com

"The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2012 Santa Fe GL 2.4 6-Speed/2012 Elantra L 6-Speed/2012 Sonata GL 6-Speed/2012 Tucson L 5-speed with an annual finance rate of 0%/2.65%/1.29%/1.29% for 84/72/84/84 months. Bi-weekly payment is $143/$121/$141/$126. No down payment is required. Cost of Borrowing is $0/$1,427/$1,124/$1,009. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,760/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760, fees, levies, charges and all applicable taxes (excluding HST). Registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, PDI, dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2012 Elantra L 6-speed for $17,380 at 2.65% per annum equals $121 bi-weekly for 72 months for a total obligation of $18,807. Cash price is $17,380. Cost of Borrowing is $1,427. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,495, fees, levies, charges and all applicable taxes (excluding HST). Registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees are excluded. ◊0 payments for up to 90 days (payment deferral) is available on all new in-stock 2011 or 2012 Hyundai models except Equus and Veloster and only applies to purchase finance offers on approved credit. If payment deferral is selected the original term of the contract will be extended by 2 months/66 days for monthly/bi-weekly finance contracts. Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. will pay the interest of the deferral for the first 2 months/66 days of the month/bi-weekly finance contract. After this period interest will start to accrue and the purchaser will pay the principal and interest monthly/bi-weekly over the remaining term of the contract. †♦Prices for models shown: 2012 Santa Fe Limited 3.5 AWD/2012 Elantra Limited/2012 Sonata Limited/2012 Tucson Limited AWD is $37,685/$24,330/$31,600/$24,245. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,760/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760, fees, levies, charges and all applicable taxes (excluding HST) are excluded. Registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees are excluded. ▼Fuel consumption for 2012 Santa Fe GL 2.4L 6-Speed Manual FWD HWY 7.7L/100KM. City 11.0L/100KM/2012 Elantra L 6-Speed HWY 4.9L/100KM. City 6.8L/100KM/2012 Sonata GL 6-Speed HWY 5.7L/100KM. City 8.7L/100KM/2012 Tucson L HWY 7.4L/100KM. City 10.1L/100KM are based on Manufacturer's testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. †♦◊Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ▲Based on the December 2011 AJAMC report. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.